



Baker to solve teachers' pay dispute by law

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, will today publish a Bill giving him sweeping powers to determine teachers' pay and conditions of service. It will consist of only seven clauses and will be rushed through Parliament with the aim of its receiving Royal Assent by February.

If the present dispute has not been resolved then by agreement, as Mr Baker hopes, the new legislation will be used to impose a settlement retroactively.

Ministers were saying last night that they recognized they were taking a gamble. But they judge that the political kudos of being seen to act decisively to break a logjam will outweigh any damage the unions can inflict by disrupting classes.

Mr Baker's announcement came in a statement to MPs calculated to avoid inflaming passions over the current impasse over staff-room pay and duties.

He said the Bill would repeal the Remuneration of Teachers Act 1963 and replace the Burnham pay bargaining machinery with an interim advisory committee to guide him on all aspects of salaries and contracts.

The committee would be appointed by the Secretary of State and take evidence from the unions and employers. It would then give advice which Mr Baker would discuss with the two sides before coming to a decision and laying it before MPs.

The present Burnham system effectively binds the Secretary of State to accepting its recommendations on pay alone once a deal has been struck.

But, it was later made clear, the final word over settlements would lie with him and would be enacted in the form of legislation.

Parliament 4

of recommendations to the Commons in the form of statutory instruments.

In a interview on BBC Radio 4, Mr Baker confirmed he would have power to impose a settlement.

Mr Baker's conciliatory line in which he spoke of "some useful progress" in the talks between the teachers and their local authority employers, enshrined in the Acas document agreed by a majority on both sides last Friday, largely overshadowed the full import of the fundamental change he was announcing.

He carefully avoided any reference to imposing a settlement in the current dispute, though he did emphasize he was not willing to allow the present "highly unsatisfactory situation to continue" for the sake of the nation's children.

Asked by Mr Ian Wigglesworth, Social Democrat MP for Stockton South, whether he was going to continue to exert a change of mind, negotiate a settlement or impose one, he said: "We shall have to wait to see what the particular unions will say."

Mr Giles Radice, the Labour education spokesman, began a lengthy bout of questioning by welcoming the fact that despite press reports there was no mention of imposition.

But he later wrung from Mr Baker the admission that the new Bill would give him such a power.

Mr Baker repeated his view there is a "huge gap" between his proposals and those in the Acas document.

The latter would exceed his £600 million cost ceiling over 15 months by £85 million and it did not offer a "sensible" career structure rewarding good classroom teaching and extra responsibility.

He said he wanted 140,000 "incentive posts" in the 400,000-member profession. Currently, there were 105,000 and the Acas proposals would cut that to 80,000. This was a "fundamental point of principle".

Mr Radice urged Mr Baker to accept the Acas deal. Classroom peace would be better secured by embracing a settlement that is supported by two thirds of the profession, he said.

Mr Baker, pressed at a press conference on how long he was prepared to wait for the employers and the unions, said: "I would have thought about the early part of next year" (our Education Reporter writes).

He emphasized that the philosophical differences on the structure of the teaching profession were "very substantial", but reiterated that he was prepared to listen to further ideas from Mr John Pearman, the employers' leader.

Rothschild stays silent on book involvement



Lord Rothschild, pictured yesterday, still refused to talk about suggestions that he masterminded publication of a spy book. Details, page 2. Photograph by John Gray

Thatcher firm in face of spy case grilling

● The Prime Minister was grilled in the Commons over the role of the Attorney-General in the M15 affair.
● The judge in the Australian court case ordered Britain to hand over secret documents about M15 (Page 10)
● A photographer was injured and his camera smashed as he attempted to photograph Lord Rothschild (Page 2)
● The Australian judge, Mr Justice Powell, made clear he was losing patience with the British Government (Page 10)

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Government ran into deeper trouble over the spy book affair yesterday as the Prime Minister faced a sustained grilling in the Commons over the role of the Attorney-General, Sir Michael Havers, and in Sydney the judge in the court case ordered Britain to hand over secret documents about M15.

Using the formula she has employed before Mrs Thatcher said it would be inappropriate to comment on matters concerning the Wright case and she would not comment on security matters.

But loudly cheered on by his backbenchers, Mr. Kinnoch said that questions about decisions and responsibilities inside the Government had no implications for national security. "Will you give a straight answer to a straight question?" he asked. "Did the Attorney-General take either or both of those decisions personally? Has the Attorney-General been a fool or a fall guy?"

She was provoked into an angry defence of the Attorney-General, the main target of the Opposition's intensified attack and at one point challenged the Opposition Leader, Mr. Kinnoch, to table a motion of censure.

Meanwhile it was announced that the Commons would debate the security services next Wednesday.

The Government had earlier been embarrassed by Mr Justice Powell's criticism that the conduct of the case could cause grave injustice and that it appeared as though the Government was not prepared to accept any decision that was not in its favour.

In the Commons Mr Kinnoch repeatedly asked the Prime Minister whether the decision not to impede the publication in 1981 of Chapman Pincher's book on M15, on which Mr Wright collaborated, and the decision to send Sir Robert Armstrong, the Cabinet Secretary, to Australia.

Judge loses patience 10

Amid uproar Mrs Thatcher dismissed the question as "totally unworthy", and when Mr Kinnoch persisted, said that such decisions were decisions of the Government and "the Government is indivisible".

With the Opposition benches in full cry the Prime Minister refused to answer a Labour MP who asked whether in 1980 or 1981 she had discussed the contents of Mr Wright's book with Lord Rothschild.

The concern on the Tory side was reflected by Mr Jonathan Aitken, MP for Thanet South, who said in view of the difficulties being encountered by the judge's ruling in Australia she should consider a moratorium "on all legal activities referring to historic matters concerned with the late Sir Roger Hollis".

Girl's murder remand

By a Staff Reporter

A man accused of the murder of a girl aged 14 on October 21. Journalists were warned by the court clerk not to identify the victims. No details were given in the charges read out apart from ages, dates and offences.

The man charged yesterday was arrested last Sunday by Surrey detectives. A second man was arrested on Tuesday and freed yesterday without charge.

Key figure 'shreds' arms documents

From Michael Binyon, Washington

The repercussions of the Iranian arms scandal continued to grow yesterday, with only a brief respite for Thanksgiving. The Justice Department called in the Federal Bureau of Investigation amid reports that a key figure had shredded documents that might have implicated top Administration officials.

The Los Angeles Times reported that Colonel Oliver North, the dismissed military advisor at the National Security Council, destroyed a number of documents from NSC files last weekend, either before or after being interviewed by Mr Edwin Meese, the Attorney-General.

It was reported that Colonel North entered his "secure office" next to the White House and shredded the documents at least 36 hours before White House security officials were sent to change the combinations on the locks to the office and safe.

The FBI has been brought in to investigate this and other aspects of the scandal. Its findings could lead to the convening of a grand jury to look at evidence for criminal prosecution.

The latest twist over the destroyed evidence has further heightened comparisons with Watergate. Scandalous congressmen and media commentators are again asking the famous Watergate question: What did the President know, and when did he know it?

The results of an ABC Television poll released on Wednesday showed that 62 per cent of respondents thought Mr Reagan had lied.

North Sea oil slick discovered

Emergency services were on standby last night as three oilfields were shut down after an oil slick, five miles long, was spotted in the North Sea.

It was feared that the oil was coming from a leak in the 130-mile submarine pipeline which runs to the Occidental terminal on the Orkney Island of Flotta.

The terminal, which was opened 10 years ago, has handled more than a billion barrels of oil - nearly 15 per cent of Britain's North Sea output.

Yesterday, however, production was stopped at all three platforms which serve the terminal - Piper, Claymore and Tartan.

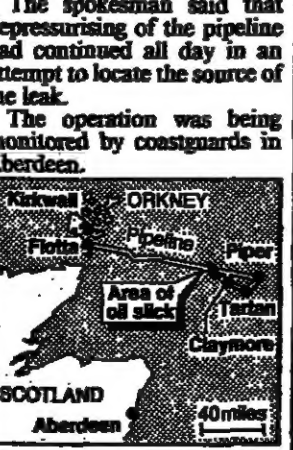
Last night the diving support ship *Deep Water 1* was on its way to the area, about 100 miles east of the Scottish mainland, to try to locate the problem.

The oil slick was first spotted by fishermen who reported it to Pentaland Coastguards at Kirkwall.

An Occidental spokesman said there was "evidence of oil in an area roughly five miles by two miles in the vicinity of our pipeline".

The spokesman said that depressuring of the pipeline had continued all day in an attempt to locate the source of the leak.

The operation was being monitored by coastguards in Aberdeen.



US Salt 2 breach enrages Kremlin

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The Kremlin said yesterday that the Soviet Defence Ministry was now reviewing concrete measures to be taken in response to the US breach of the unratified Salt-2 treaty.

The warning that the Soviet Union would itself abandon the restraints imposed by the 1979 treaty in direct response to the American move was accompanied by an angry announcement that Washington's decision would have negative repercussions on the disarmament talks due to resume in Geneva next week.

The swift Soviet reaction, announced at a special news conference called here by the Foreign Ministry, followed the statement in the US that the 131st B-52 bomber equipped with cruise missiles will be dispatched today for operations at a Texas air base, topping the ceiling of 1,320 for missile warheads and cruise-carrying bombers laid down in the treaty.

Mr Boris Pyadyshev, the Kremlin spokesman, said that if the US move went ahead "the Soviet Union will consider itself free of the corresponding commitments to the treaty and will take the necessary practical measures not to allow the undermining of the military-strategic parity". Mr Pyadyshev stressed that the Soviet side would not have to hurry with its reaction, because the immediate threat to its security was not "SALT", but "Soviet".

Questioned by *The Times* about the concrete steps in terms of new military hardware that the Soviet Union would be introducing the charge would have been between £150 and £260 per person.

The new system, page 2

Soviet doctors to join Aids research

By Thomson Press, Science Correspondent

British and Soviet doctors are to collaborate on research into the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (Aids) and other public health issues in a return to "medical détente" between the two countries.

Soviet virologists will work with British specialists on studies of Aids after talks in London this week between a delegation of Russian doctors and the Department of Health and Social Security.

The inclusion of Aids research on the agenda suggests that Soviet health authorities are more concerned about the impact of the disease in Russia than recent official statements have indicated.

The meetings mark the end of Britain's suspension four years ago of formal medical collaboration with the Soviet Union after the invasion of Afghanistan and the suppression of the Solidarity movement in Poland.

Since the suspension of the agreement, signed in 1975 to "develop and widen co-operation on important problems of medicine and public health", doctors in both countries, as well as politicians, health officials and groups such as the UK-US Medical Exchange Programme, have been striving for its revival.

Unofficial visits by parties of doctors and medical students have taken place.

The moves came after Foreign Office approval of renewed "cost-effective" co-operation. Increased collaboration in cardiology, ophthalmology, accident and emergency medical care and oncology, as well as Aids research, is likely to be officially agreed today.

Soviet authorities have frequently denied that Aids is a serious threat in their country. Professor Viktor Zhdanov, director of the Ivanovski Institute of Virology, told a conference on Aids in Paris last June that only 12 cases had been identified, of which seven came from Africa.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, will discuss the Aids epidemic with the World Health Organization in Geneva today.

Prince launches Inner City Trust

The Prince of Wales yesterday lent his wholehearted support to community architecture as he launched the Inner City Trust (Christopher Warman writes).

It is an organization set up to fund self-help community projects in deprived inner-city areas.

The Trust, through its fund-raising arm Inner City Aid, based on Bob Geldof's Band Aid, and using staff from that campaign, aims to raise tens of millions of pounds to fund housing schemes.

The intention is to provide money to grass roots organizations, to fund projects from the "bottom up", from among the local people, rather than use the "top down" approach.

The prince told the *Building Communities* conference at the Astoria Theatre, in London, the first international conference on community architecture, planning and design, that he supported the "bottom up" approach to building, because he believed that every individual had a contribution to make. "I'm here because frankly, what is known as the community architecture approach makes a great deal of sense to me."

In the last year or two, however, Prince Charles has visited several community schemes, including one in Stirling described in *The Times* on Wednesday.

Prince's campaign, page 3

Labour's secret war on 'loony right'

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Labour is secretly preparing a new year counter-offensive to the Government's attacks on "loony-left" councils. It will seek to expose unsavoury business, financial and political activities within the Conservative Party.

The Shadow Cabinet endorsed the plan at a meeting earlier this month, and key frontbench spokesmen have since been advised to start gathering and collating evidence.

Mr Robin Cook, a trade and industry spokesman, is believed to be concentrating on the City; Mr Jack Straw, an environment spokesman, on Tory-run local authorities and Mr George Foulkes, a foreign affairs spokesman, on right-wing organizations like the now-defunct Federation of Conservative Students. Mr Gerald Kaufman, the Shadow Home Secretary, is also understood to be involved.

Sources stressed yesterday that attacks on the personal lives of Conservative Party members had been ruled out, but not disclosure of their business or political connections or financial interests.

Labour believes it can find plenty of evidence of Tory maladministration on local authorities.

The FCS may have been disbanded, but its more extreme members are still around, and attention will be paid to the backgrounds of MPs' research assistants.

Also likely to be investigated are some of the more shadowy groups loosely linked to the party.

It is believed that two recent Granada Television *World In Action* programmes concerning the Anglo-Asian businessman Mr Abdul Shamji, whose huge business empire collapsed with debts of nearly £40 million following the Johnson Matthey banking scandal, are also being closely studied.

Shake-up of rates starts in Scotland

By Robin Oakley

The long-awaited shake-up of Britain's rating system, first promised by the Conservatives in 1974, began yesterday with the publication of a bill to reform the system in Scotland.

Domestic rates will be phased out there from April 1987 to be replaced by a system of community charges paid by all adults. Had the system operated this year the charge would have been between £150 and £260 per person.

Tomorrow A clown like Alex



Alex Higgins, snooker's wayward superstar, teeters on the edge of a life ban. What makes him tick? And what makes him go cuckoo? Gordon Burn gets to the heart of a flawed genius

Portfolio Gold

● The Times Portfolio Gold competition was cancelled yesterday because of some incorrect Stock Exchange prices supplied to newspapers throughout the country. Today's competition prize will therefore be £8,000, double the usual daily amount.

● Portfolio list, page 25; how to play, information service, 20.

Khoo resigns

Tan Sri Khoo Teck Post, the Singapore businessman whose family is involved in problems with the National Bank of Brunei, yesterday resigned as director of Standard Chartered Bank. Page 21

Higgins back

Alex Higgins was given a rousing welcome when he returned to action in the Tennents UK professional snooker championship at Preston two days after an incident in which he allegedly assaulted an official. Page 36

Howe decision

The Football Association has rejected a request by Bobby Robson, the England manager, to appoint Don Howe as his full-time assistant. Page 36

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NEWS SUMMARY

Appraisal scheme gets under way

Six local education authorities have been named by the Government to take part in a pilot project for appraising the performance of teachers.

Of the 18 that applied earlier in the year, Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, has invited Croydon, Cumbria, Newcastle, Salford, Somerset and Suffolk to take part in a scheme which will be funded through education support grants and which is expected to get under way in January.

Teachers have agreed in principle, after years of opposition to job assessment, to an appraisal scheme.

US Chinook ruling

A court order against the American Boeing Corporation has been won by lawyers seeking £14 million damages for the widow of one of the 45 Sikorsky helicopter crash victims, Mrs Sharon Jennings of Easton, Cleveland.

Mr Paddy McCarthy, a Teesside solicitor, said yesterday that a US court has barred Boeing from making further tests on the gearbox of the crashed Chinook without experts representing his client being present. Mrs Jennings, aged 24, gave birth to a girl on November 15, nine days after the death of her husband, Paul, aged 26.

Rival to Labour

The Labour Party would lose a third of its support in the mining constituency of Mansfield if the Union of Democratic Mineworkers put up a rival candidate at the next General Election, an opinion poll has shown.

The poll, carried out for Central Television, indicated that support for Labour would fall from 39.4 per cent, now, to only 26.3 per cent if the UDM carried out its threat to sponsor its own candidate.

Car chase death

A policeman died yesterday after the car she was driving crashed while she was chasing a private motorist "on a hunch".

Women Police Constable Deborah Leat, aged 20, who lived with her father at Canham, Bristol, crashed into a tree on a bend on Speedwell Road, Bristol.

PC Richard Cadden, aged 19, received a dislocated shoulder and minor head injuries. The car they were following was later found abandoned.

BR sues News group

British Rail yesterday served a writ on News International, alleging that the company had lost its business worth £30 million through breach of contract.

The writ claims that until a four-year contract for the distribution of its newspapers, including *The Times*, was allegedly broken in January, News International accounted for one-third of its business in that area of operations.

The National Union of Railwaymen, which supports former employees of News International, has claimed its members would refuse to handle the newspapers.

Drop McGoldrick case, says Kinnock

By Philip Webster
Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock and other members of the Shadow Cabinet yesterday criticised Brent council over its decision to proceed with a disciplinary hearing against Miss Maureen McGoldrick, and made a last appeal for the issue to be dropped.

In a statement Dr John Cunningham, the shadow environment secretary, said he very much regretted the move and added: "No positive purpose can be served by such hearings."

Miss McGoldrick, headmistress of Sudbury Infants School in North London, was suspended from her job last July after allegedly telling a

council official she did not want any more black teachers on her staff.

An original disciplinary hearing against her was stopped by the High Court, which ruled that the council had no right to stage its own investigation after the teacher had been cleared by the school governors.

This resulted in Miss McGoldrick, aged 36, being reinstated three weeks ago. But the High Court ruling was overturned by the Court of Appeal, although Sir John Donaldson, the Master of the Rolls, said he hoped the authority would not proceed with the disciplinary hearing.

Even so, the council said it would go ahead and would also investigate the behaviour

of governors and parents at the school.

That move was attacked yesterday by former headmaster Mr Harry Greenwood, Conservative MP for Ealing North, as "a breathtaking act of savage vengeance". He challenged the Labour Party leadership to step in and stop this "blatant and brutish injustice".

The National Union of Teachers announced yesterday that it would make a decision "within the next few days" on the question of further legal action in the case of Miss McGoldrick (Our Education Reporter writes).

Mr Fred Jarvis, the general secretary of the NUT, and Mr Graham Clayton, the union's solicitor, issued for the first

time the documents which formed the basis of the case being considered by the council's disciplinary sub-committee.

Mrs McGoldrick said yesterday that she had not been surprised by the sub-committee's decision to continue with disciplinary action. "I did not make the statement I am alleged to have done," she said.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate has issued a damning report on a college of further education in Brent, which criticises its poor management, "drab and dirty" classrooms, and obsolete specialist equipment.

Kilburn Polytechnic was established in 1934.

The overall student attendance record was described as "poor" and the report takes many of the 160 staff to task for not giving sufficient thought to the choice of teaching methods, although those who teach for the pre-nursing and social care certificates were singled out for praise.

A copy of the report is available from the Publications Despatch Centre, Department of Education and Science, Honeycroft Lane, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 1AZ.

A Brent council spokesman said the report concerned the situation at the polytechnic 12 months ago and since then a new principal and vice-principal had been appointed.

'Wanted' man flies back to Belfast

An Ulster man wanted by the US authorities for alleged gun-running to Syria, Iran and other prohibited countries and for whose arrest a warrant was issued by a Washington DC court on Wednesday, flew back into Belfast's Aldergrove Airport yesterday afternoon after a meeting with peers at the House of Lords.

Mr Thomas O'Brien, aged 45, a unionist activist and chairman of the Bangor branch of the small, hardline Progressive Unionist Party, said he would consult lawyers about the "titanic" allegations being made against him by the US authorities.

Applying for an arrest warrant on Wednesday a US customs representative told a Washington court that Mr O'Brien was wanted together with two Americans and an Englishman named as Mr Eric Magee for conspiring to supply arms, ammunition and high tech navigation systems to several countries to which such exports are banned, in contravention of the US Arms Export Control Act.

The four were alleged to have had contacts with undercover Customs investigators between last March and this month. Mr O'Brien was being sought and was thought to be in the United States, the court is reported to have been told.

Mr O'Brien flew openly into Aldergrove airport yesterday, unimpeded either at Heathrow or on arrival and professed himself to be mystified by the charges being made against him.

"I have not been out of Great Britain in the last quarter. I was in London on business, with a group of other people to meet some lords at the House of Lords. I met them but I cut the visit short - I was supposed to stay for further meetings this evening. I've returned home to find out what is going on. I'm not in hiding from anyone."

He has been a member of the Progressive Unionist Party for more than four years and chairs his local branch in Bangor, where he is unemployed and lives with his wife and two children. Last year he stood, unsuccessfully, in the local authority elections, polling only 267 first-preference votes.

The RUC would not comment on whether Mr O'Brien was known to them, but they said an extradition request had been received.

Anti-pact campaign in chaos

The Ulster "loyalist" campaign of opposition to the Anglo-Irish agreement was in chaos yesterday.

Hopes of bringing about the collapse of local government were stymied in a revolt by Official Unionists who refused to vacate their council seats - leaving the future of Mr James Molyneux, the party leader, who called for the resignations, dangerously exposed.

Now, rival Democratic Unionist Party hardliners, infuriated by the rebellion, are likely to push for an all-out public civil disobedience campaign to revive the intensity of the protests.

Mr Molyneux's position as leader of the province's largest political party did not appear under any immediate threat. But the split within his ranks will make it increasingly difficult for him to keep pace with the anti-agreement campaign being forced by senior officials in the Rev Ian Paisley's DUP.

The two leaders met yesterday to discuss their next move. But the uneasy alliance between the two parties who agreed on a joint pact of opposition is as close as it has ever been to breaking up.

The Official Unionists voted 82-44 against vacating the seats. They feared the mainly Roman Catholic SDLP and Sinn Féin would take over most of Ulster's 26 district councils, many of which are continuing to adjourn all business.

But the emphatic rejection of Mr Molyneux's resignation call, at a special meeting in Belfast, was a setback to the party leader's authority.

He said: "I am absolutely determined, come what may, and no matter what kind of forces are mounted against me, to carry through that policy in conjunction with all other pro-union people who will not tolerate consent to the agreement."

"As far as my position is concerned, I was elected by the 800 members of the Ulster Unionist Council seven years ago."

"They are the only people who can decide to remove me. If they say it is time to go I will go quietly, but not until then and not at the behest of any element within the party other than the unionist council."

By the time these columns appear, Mr Molyneux will be in London. He is expected to meet the Prime Minister on Monday. He will also be in contact with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr John Major.

First steps towards the abolition of domestic rate

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

The Government took the first step yesterday towards the abolition of domestic rates in Britain, with the publication of a Bill to substitute the payment of a community charge of between £150 and £260, by everyone over 18, in Scotland.

The Cabinet is pledged to extend the new system to England and Wales if the Conservatives win the next election.

The Bill provides for the phasing out of domestic rates over three years, beginning in 1989-90, for the two million ratepayers in Scotland. The new community charge will then start to be paid by about 3.85 million adults.

The Government calculates that about half those affected will be worse off and half will be better off.

The less well-off will be protected with rebates, the level of which is yet to be determined. But even those on benefits will have to pay a proportion of the community charge.

For premises in multiple occupation the landlord will pay a multiple community charge and a standard community charge will be payable by second home owners.

Students will be expected to pay the community charge at their term time address and the grant system will be adjusted to assist with the extra expense.

Official estimates say that if the new system had operated for 1986-87 charges would have ranged from about £150 to about £260, depending on the area in which people live.

Work has begun to harmonise the valuation systems north and south of the border to pave the way for the nationwide introduction of a uniform business rate, determined by the Government and redistributed to local authorities according to their populations.

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Bank staff stop Mr O'Neill photographing Lord Rothschild (Photograph: Ros Drinkwater)

Rothschild staff in scuffle

By Robin Young

A photographer was injured and his camera smashed yesterday as he was attempting to photograph Lord Rothschild.

Mr David O'Neill, a staff photographer working for *The Mail on Sunday*, was set upon by several employees of N M Rothschild and Co as Lord Rothschild arrived at the office. He is at the centre of the controversy about Mr Peter Wright's involvement with Mr Chapman Pincher's book, *The Trade in Treachery*.

Lord Rothschild had left his home in St James's Place by chauffeur-driven car yesterday morning, and Miss Ros Drinkwater, *The Times* photographer, photographed him there. She then followed the car, riding on the pillion of a motor-cycle.

The car did a U-turn in The Mall, and appeared to ignore a red light on the embankment. Once outside the N M Rothschild headquarters Lord Rothschild got out. Mr O'Neill, who was by the bank entrance, was kept away.

Miss Drinkwater said that several people tried to grab her as her motor-cycle turned into the private road outside the bank doors. "They also tried to stop me taking pictures of David being manhandled."

Mr O'Neill's hands were cut in the scuffle and his Nikon camera and £1.5 less worth £1,300 were smashed beyond repair. Mr Stewart Stevens, editor of *The Mail on Sunday*, said afterwards: "I have never seen a camera so comprehensively shattered."

Mr Stevens said: "It is unbelievable that in this amazing episode everybody seems

to have taken on the photographers," a reference to the fact that Sir Robert Armstrong apologised after swinging a ladeaxe at a photographer when leaving Heathrow Airport to give evidence in Australia.

A spokesman for N M Rothschild, who had himself been outside the bank when Lord Rothschild arrived, said: "We have no comment we wish to make. All of us outside the bank were regular staff employees. There is no chance of you speaking to Lord Rothschild. You are asking impertinent questions."

Mr Stevens said he had made a formal complaint about the incident to the police, and a statement issued by *The Mail on Sunday* said that the newspaper was taking legal advice about the affair.

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Magazines seized in porn alert

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Reporter

One of Britain's largest police operations against pornography was launched yesterday when Scotland Yard's Obscene Publications Branch seized four lorry-loads of magazines and video cassettes from a warehouse in Stratford, east London.

Thirty-four forces throughout the rest of Britain had been alerted by the police to retail outlets in their areas supplied with material from the warehouse.

After the police moved in on the warehouse other forces began their own operations against the outlets and also seized material.

During the day forces carried out their own raids on shops in Chatham, Margate, Folkestone, Oxford, Reading and other towns.

The action was code-named Operation Walrus and police seized nearly 300,000 magazines from the warehouse.

On St Valentine's Day the police carried out another raid on the warehouse and took magazines worth more than £2 million.

Last week magistrates ordered the material should be returned because less than half of the batch of material shown to the court was considered obscene.

The forces assigned to any task run by a joint force

Defence blueprint on rapid-response forces

By Peter Davenport, Defence Correspondent

A major report which will provide the blueprint for future rapid strategic deployment of British Armed Forces outside the Nato area is to be prepared for defence chiefs.

It will be drawn up from the experiences in the joint UK-Omani military exercise, now coming to a close, which has been testing operational concepts developed from the Falklands campaign.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Harding, Commander-in-Chief Strike Command and director of Exercise Saff Sereza (Swift Sword) said yesterday that the report should be ready by February.

He said that the rapid deployment capability of the Armed Forces was significantly better today than it was five years ago. And an ongoing programme of improvements in the RAF's air-to-air refuelling capacity would produce further enhancements in the ability to move a powerful force, thousands of miles at very short notice.

After the Falklands campaign the chiefs of staff decided that future out-of-area operations would be run by a joint force headquarters to eliminate the problems of co-operation between the three services experienced in the South Atlantic.

The forces assigned to any task run by a joint force

headquarters, who could range from the evacuation of British nationals from hostile territory to providing military assistance to a friendly, non-Nato country, are drawn from 5 Airborne Brigades and 3 Commando Royal Marines. Royal Navy and RAF forces are allocated as required depending on the circumstances of the operation.

Although 90 per cent of Britain's military commitment is to the deterrent strategy of Nato, troops have been involved in 83 separate operations out of area since the end of the Second World War. Further such deployments are considered more likely in the future than any major Nato action and there is a commitment to continuously upgrading.

One major improvement is the air-to-air refuelling and transport capacity of the RAF. Although only a quarter of 5 Airborne Brigade were airlifted into the Oman exercise over a period of days, Sir Peter said that in war they could have been taken in with all their equipment within 36 hours.

Royal Ordnance, the defence manufacturing company, announced yesterday that the 2,000 workforce at its Blackburn factory is being reduced by 270 to enable it to remain internationally competitive.

The forces assigned to any task run by a joint force

Snails in biological foul-up

By Martin Fletcher
Political Reporter

The plight of the female dog whelk or marine snail is to be raised in the Commons today.

Mr Anthony Steen, Conservative MP for South Hams, is to table a written question alerting ministers to the fact that all along the coast of the South-west these creatures are growing male sex organs.

He will cite the latest edition of *Journal of the Marine Biological Association* in which two marine biologists from Plymouth, Dr Peter Gibbs and Dr Geoffrey Bryan, claim that this mutation is the direct effect of the toxic Tributyl Tin (TBT) and-foul-

ing paint used on the bottoms of boats.

According to the scientists, the existence of the dog whelk, or *Nucella Lapillus*, is threatened in the heavily polluted areas around estuaries and marinas because the male sex organs are growing over the female opening and the creatures are effectively becoming "egg-bound".

The revelation gives Mr Steen fresh ammunition to continue his long-running campaign to have TBT paint banned. He claims that it has already killed the oyster and scallop industries on Devon's south coast, destroying jobs.

He points out that the French banned TBT paint in 1982 when they discovered it was destroying marine life, and developed a non-toxic, copper-based anti-fouling.

In Britain, from January 1 next the TBT content of the copolymer content must be reduced from 7.5 per cent to 5.5 per cent.

Since last January the Department of the Environment has also been monitoring the results of earlier legislation restricting the use.

"The damage to marine life is devastating, but unfortunately, because of the pressure of paint manufacturers and yachtsmen, we are stuck with a reduction that is not going to make the slightest difference," Mr Steen said.

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PC Olds took massive overdose of drugs and drink before he died

By David Cross

Police Constable Philip Olds, who was paralysed from the waist down by a robber's bullet six years ago, died of a huge overdose of drugs and alcohol after an argument with his girlfriend, an inquest at Hovey in north London was told yesterday.

On the sheet of the bed where he spent his last night on October 1, he had scribbled "Sorry Vessa" in red ink but no other message was found.

He had tried to get a telephone message to Police Sergeant Vanessa Perkins who had nursed him through his ordeal and whom he intended to marry.

But she had left the bungalow in Pinner, Middlesex, where he lived, intending to return the next day.

Recording an open verdict, Mr Bernard Pearl, assistant deputy coroner for north London, said it was "a tragedy that a man of that sort should have been reduced by injury to a state where he could drink so much alcohol that he did not know how many fingers were two and how many tablets were four."

PC Olds, aged 34, had been a hero and a proud serving member of the Metropolitan police force, he added. Mr Pearl read a statement from Miss Perkins, aged 30, saying that the couple were planning happily for their future on the night of his death. But an argument had blown up and she had left him "upset and angry".

She added: "He was a man of sudden moods, one minute and down the next. He had discussed suicide with me on several occasions."

"He would drink rather heavily, disregarding the num-



PC Olds, who had discussed suicide several times

ber of drugs he was taking. We had arguments about this and three months before his death we decided on a trial separation."

Miss Perkins was unable to attend the inquest because she was recuperating from a minor operation. She said PC Olds had stopped drinking and they had decided to get back together again. "We were happy and planning our future together."

Dr Rufus Crompton, a consultant pathologist from St George's Hospital, Tooting, said that a post-mortem examination on PC Olds had shown a very high level of alcohol in his blood and that some of the alcohol had been consumed within 30 minutes of his death.

There were also four drugs in his stomach, a tranquillizer, an anti-histamine, a potent sedative and a sleeping pill. The cause of death was multiple drug and alcohol poisoning," he said.

Asked what the impact of an alcohol level nearly four times

the legal limit for drivers combined with drugs would be, Dr Crompton said that he would be "confused enough not to know how many tablets he had taken".

PC Peter Dale, a friend and colleague for 12 years, said that PC Olds had found it hard to come to terms with his inability to walk after the shooting incident.

Nevertheless, PC Dale said, a shooting incident in his home a few weeks before his death had worried and upset PC Olds badly. He had also been concerned by an earlier incident when he had heard two would-be burglars discussing how to get into his bungalow.

Insp Alvin Lennox, stationed at Harrow, said that PC Olds was showing off his gun to a friend when it went off accidentally injuring the friend. The gun had subsequently been examined and found to have a light trigger.

PC Peter Holbak told the inquest that he had taken a telephone call from PC Olds about 3.30am on October 1. "He wanted to talk to Police Sergeant Perkins. She was not there and he asked for a message to be left," he said. "He sounded drunk."

In his summing up Mr Pearl said that PC Olds was very reckless with drugs and alcohol "arising, I am sure from the pains and tribulations he suffered".

But to record a verdict of suicide, he had to be sure that what he did was for the sole purpose of taking his life.

But the very high level of alcohol found in his blood might have confused him enough not to realize how many drugs he had taken, nor the implications of what he had done.

Dr Jaffe says patient's case notes were stolen

By Michael Horswell

Important documents were stolen in a burglary at the private consulting rooms of Dr Joseph Jaffe only weeks before he was charged with professional misconduct.

This was disclosed yesterday at a General Medical Council disciplinary hearing, where Dr Jaffe has been accused of wrecking the personal and business life of a patient with a course of hypnosis and injections of an addictive drug concoction he called "Jaffe Juice".

Among the papers stolen in June 1985 were case notes relating to the patient - Mr George Watson, a wealthy businessman.

Mr Watson, aged 49, a married man with four children of Altrincham, Cheshire, has complained to the GMC about Dr Jaffe's five-year course of treatment for which he was charged up to £60,000.

Yesterday Dr Jaffe, aged 61, an associate member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, told the hearing that when the break-in at his consulting rooms in Manchester was reported to police he did not notice Mr Watson's file was missing.

But a "frightening" incident happened which made him look for it on September 8,

1985. That was when Dr Jaffe saw Mr Watson and others taking photographs outside his surgery. By then Dr Jaffe, a former mayor of Salford, had been told legal proceedings against him had been started.

Mr Anthony Aridge, QC, for Dr Jaffe, said it was not surprising that the doctor had his suspicions about who carried out the burglary.

Parts of the five charges against Dr Jaffe were dropped yesterday after Mr Aridge argued there was insufficient evidence. Dr Jaffe is now accused of administering undisclosed drugs which adversely affected Mr Watson's capacity to fulfil his domestic and business responsibilities; disregarding requests from Mrs Ann Watson, a trained nurse, to refer her husband to hospital; failing to provide details of the treatment he had given to a consultant psychiatrist who requested them; and abusing his professional position by signing an untrue character reference.

Dr Jaffe confirmed that Mr Stephen Ledger, his own accountant, had been taken on by Mr Watson's cycle business, but that he had not introduced them.

The hearing continues.

Four dead in head-on bus crash

By Craig Seaton

Workers who rushed from their factory yesterday to help victims of an accident outside, found four of their workmates had died and two others were critically injured in a head-on collision between a car and a double-decker bus.

Twelve of the 38 passengers on the bus were treated for minor injuries as firemen used cutting gear to release six young men from their car outside the Brush Electrical Engineering factory in Loughborough, Leicestershire.

One survivor from the car, was seriously ill in the intensive care unit of Leicester Royal Infirmary last night and the other was described as "seriously ill".

Police said all six men worked at the factory in the Meadow, Loughborough, close to where the accident happened in a narrow country lane, but could not release their names until they had been identified.

Mr Stephen Hastings, the bus driver, from Clifton, Nottingham, said: "The driver of the car came over a bridge and lost control. He was fighting hard to regain control, but he could not and just careered into me."



The Princess of Wales being greeted on arrival to present the awards for Westminster City Council's anti-drug campaign

Princess launches drugs campaign

By Sophie Witter

"Say No To Drugs" was the Princess of Wales's message when she launched Westminster City Council's campaign against drug abuse at Covent Garden yesterday.

The Princess presented two Westminster Ribbon Awards to organizations which have worked against drug abuse and signed a "pledge board" giving her personal support to the campaign.

The ribbon campaign takes its name from the blue, green and silver ribbons worn by the pop stars and public figures who followed the Princess yesterday in pledging to stay "drug-free".

Awards went to the Turning Point Hangerford Drug Project, a group providing advice and support for problem drug takers, and Core, a new centre set up to give intensive homeopathic treatment to addicts.

Westminster City Council recognizes that Britain's drug problem is concentrated in London and among young people.

"Next year the Ribbon Awards will go to anti-drug projects devised by young

people," Lady Porter, leader of the council, said. "Too many anti-drug warnings have sounded like adults preaching to the young and the result has been self-defeating."

Campaign organizers hope many young people will also sign the pledge board, which will be kept in the Rock Garden at Covent Garden.

The campaign, which emphasizes self-help and small community organizations, has the support of the Prime Minister. "The task is one not just for the Government but for the whole community," she said.

Support for the campaign also comes from Mr Page Peary, director of the Straight Drug Rehabilitation Centre in Washington, which was visited by the Princess of Wales last November. "The age of drug addicts is falling and community support for rehabilitation schemes is becoming increasingly important," he said.

His programme, the largest in the US, has achieved a 75 per cent success rate for clients between 12 and 25 years old.



The Princess of Wales at the launch of the Inner Cities Trust

RAF help with moor search

By Ian Smith

Northern Correspondent

The RAF took aerial photographs of Saddleworth Moor yesterday to help police searching for the bodies of two youngsters thought to have been buried there 22 years ago by Ian Brady and Myra Hindley.

Photographs of ground contours will be compared with those taken when the first search of the moors was undertaken by police from four neighbouring forces.

Eight body detection dogs continued the search as the Canberra reconnaissance aircraft flew overhead.

Mr James Anderton, the Greater Manchester chief constable, yesterday defended the new search for Keith Bennett, who was aged 12, and Pauline Reade, aged 16.

He said the decision was entirely his and denied that there had been any excessive or unwarranted use of police resources. "There is nothing unusual in the re-opening of a case of this kind, no matter how macabre or notorious it becomes. The case can never be completely closed so long as some opportunity for justice remains."

One of the children's mothers angrily denied suggestions that the renewed inquiry was an unwarranted, grisly and macabre operation.

Mrs Winifred Johnson, the mother of Keith Bennett who disappeared four days after his twelfth birthday in 1964, warmly welcomed the renewed search and said both she and Pauline Reade's mother wholly supported the police inquiry.

Criticism about the search and claims that it should not have begun until the spring were dismissed as uninformed nonsense and Mrs Johnson also fiercely attacked the suggestion by Mr Geoffrey Dickens, MP, that the search should be called off and a monument to the missing youngsters be placed on the moors instead.

"These people just do not know what they are talking about. They have no conception of the pain and anguish with which we have lived for the past 22 years, never knowing with absolute certainty whether our children are alive or dead."

"All I want is for Keith's remains to be discovered so I can put my son to rest in a proper cemetery with a headstone which I can visit with flowers to keep his memory alive."

Princess's poster refusal

By Kenneth Gosling

Princess Michael of Kent has told the British Safety Council that she will not allow a photograph of herself to appear on a poster about electrical accidents.

Her office at Kensington Palace said last night that while the princess had said how worthy and necessary the poster was, she did not consider that a picture of a member of the Royal Family should appear in this way.

Her private secretary said he found a statement by Mr James Tye, the council's direc-

tor general, "rather surprising". Mr Tye had earlier issued to the press a "mock-up" of the poster which had also gone to the princess.

It reads: "Live wires are killers. Fit a power breaker, says HHR Princess Michael of Kent," and carries a drawing of a three-point plug and a sketch of Princess Michael which would have been replaced by a photograph.

The statement by Mr Tye to which Kensington Palace took

exception said: "I am amazed, indeed shocked, by her refusal to help to save lives on what would have been a tasteful and dignified poster." The princess had been approached, he said, because of her public support for safety precautions, including being president of the Tatty Club, a safety organization for children.

"Who could have been more appropriate," he asked? He also referred to "Princess Michael's love of self-promotion" as a reason for approaching her.

BAOR mail destroyed in lorry blaze

An electrical fault was blamed for a lorry fire which destroyed tons of Christmas mail yesterday intended for British servicemen in Germany.

Christmas cards, letters and packages for the Army and RAF were destroyed when the lorry and trailer burst into flames on the A12 at Rivenhall in Essex.

But experts investigating the cause later discounted the theory that a letter bomb could have been the cause.

The Army's special investigation branch said: "Arson has not been fully ruled out but is not suspected. We believe an electrical fault started the fire."

The civilian lorry was on its way from Mill Hill in north London to catch the North Sea ferry at Felixstowe. Firemen were able to salvage some of the mail which was later returned to London.

Six deny attempt to doctor US cheques

By David Sapsted

A gang forged the signature of Clint Eastwood, the Hollywood actor, on a stolen US government cheque, Isleworth Crown Court in London was told yesterday.

Six defendants face charges arising out of a swindle that could have netted \$5 million (about £2 million) in doctored US Treasury cheques, Mr Victor Temple, for the prosecution, said.

One mistake the gang made, he alleged, was to forge Mr Eastwood's signature on the back of a cheque originally made out for a few dollars but altered to make it look worth more than \$38,000.

According to Mr Temple, the cheques, most with a \$1,000 maximum, were stolen from a mail centre in San Francisco and taken to the Far East where the amounts on them were increased and passed signatures forged.

They were then sent to England where the gang tried to cash them, he claimed. Staff

at the London branch of a Dutch bank became suspicious.

Five of the defendants denied charges of conspiring to cash fraudulent cheques, conspiring to use false instruments and conspiring to obtain cash by deception.

They were Jamil-ur-Rahman Hashmee, aged 34, an unemployed banker, of Mackie Road, Bristol; James Soon Bee Ang, aged 48, a Singapore merchant; Hue Kuci Lee Soon, aged 50, a Singapore broker; Muhammad Wasit Khan, aged 36, a Karachi bank official, of Kilburn, north London; and Moed Udin Ahmed, aged 35, managing director of a Karachi asbestos firm, of Maida Vale, north-west London.

A sixth defendant, Aris Khan, aged 28, a typist, also of Maida Vale, denied two charges of trying to pervert the course of justice and one of handling stolen US Treasury cheques. The trial continues.

Prince's campaign for inner cities

The Prince of Wales yesterday called for a new renaissance for Britain "from the bottom up".

He made the appeal as he launched his own initiative to help the inner cities when he addressed 800 delegates at a Building Communities conference in London.

Announcing a new charity, the Inner City Trust, the Prince directed his appeal to commerce and industry, institutions, societies and clubs, and members of the public to help with cash and kind.

The Prince is patron of the trust which will administer resources raised from the appeal. Its eight trustees include Lord Scarman, chairman of the conference, whose report on the riots in Brixton, south London, was published five years ago this week.

The Prince told delegates that Britain had an opportunity to do three things: to create a new renaissance in architecture; to launch a serious campaign to save Britain's heritage and to stimulate local initiatives to promote community and economic development.

It was time, he said, to resurrect the principles of classical Greece, that proportion was not a matter of individual taste but depended on mathematical laws of harmony which could only be broken at the expense of beauty.

The Prince said: "We have been led by the noses for long enough down a path which totally ignores the principles of harmony and the well-cultivated relationship of the parts to the whole."

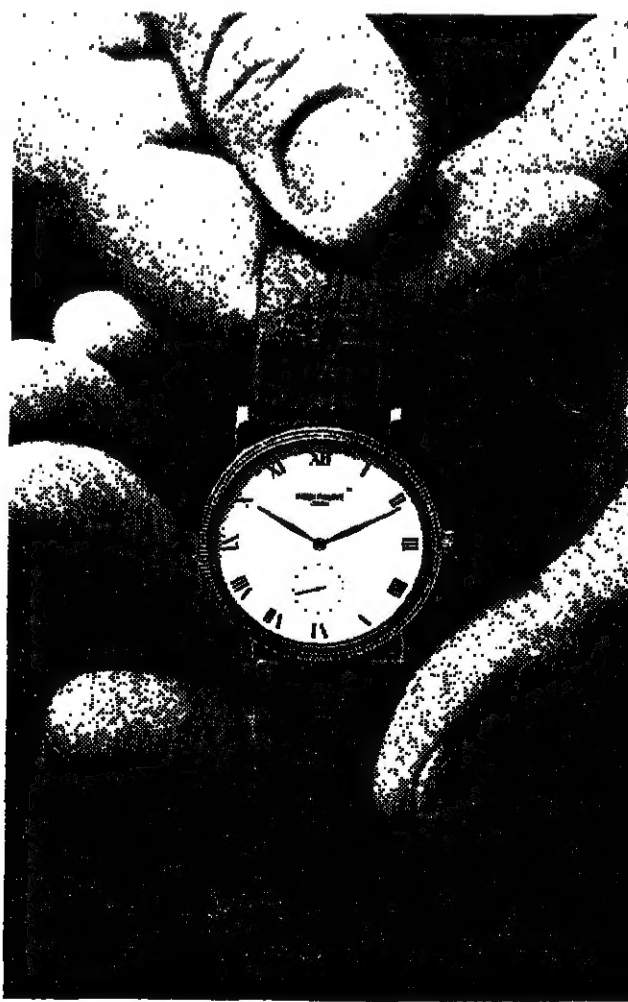
The Prince said: "Can't we try and make mankind feel grand? Can't we raise the spirit, by restoring a sense of harmony, by re-establishing human scale in street patterns and heights of buildings; by redesigning those huge areas of what is euphemistically known as 'public open space' between tower blocks which lie derelict, festering and anonymous."

"Can't we restore people's pride; bring back self-confidence; develop the potential and very real skills of individual people in this island?"

Lord Scarman opened the conference with an appeal for people to be given more control and say over their living conditions.

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Baker throws out parts of schools pay settlement

There had been useful progress on teachers' pay, but the Government was unable to accept important parts of last Friday's deal between the local authorities and the teachers' unions, Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education, told the Commons.

Bill that will abolish the Burnham Committee and bring in an advisory committee on pay will be introduced tomorrow.

In his statement, Mr Baker said: Progress has been made, but Friday's document contains some features which the Government cannot accept.

First, we cannot accept the excess costs of the proposals on pay. The phasing and distribution mean that the proposals cost an extra £15 million for three months of January to March next year and another £70 million for the next financial year. The Government's offer, worth £60 million, is for 10.4 per cent to be implemented in full by next October. That offer stands. It is very generous by any standard.

EDUCATION

was no mention of imposition; any attempt to impose a settlement either now or in the future would be strongly opposed.

The whole nation wants decent pay for teachers and improved education services and, above all, peace in the classrooms.

"Are these objectives more likely to be secured by an agreement which has already been negotiated by employers and teachers and which is supported by at least two thirds of the profession, or by an imposed settlement which will not only be accompanied by severe technical difficulties, but is also highly likely to lead to renewed disruption?"

He was glad that Mr Baker had recognized the substantial advances and achievements of the deal which established decent pay for classroom teachers, provided a clear definition of teachers' duties, laid down a minimum number of duty days,

What he had set out on October 30 had been the Government's position, the framework against which an agreement could have been reached acceptable to the Government.

The present document was not in fact an agreement, it was an agreement to submit proposals to members of the unions, and that process was in hand and might take several weeks.

There were real worries within the unions. He had seen the secretary of the Head Teachers' Association and noted their anxiety about structure. He had also met representatives of the Professional Association of Teachers and the National Association of Head Teachers, and would be seeing them again.

He would be willing to hear further representations. Mr John Peartman, the local authority representative, had been to see him the previous evening and they had discussed the principles of costs and structure.

The suggestion that the differences were minor was not right, those relating to structure would lay down the rules for the teaching profession for the rest of the century.

For example, in running a large secondary school with 750 teachers it was usual for 60 to hold some sort of incentive or promotion post. The proposal would reduce this to 15-20. One could not run a secondary school on that basis if you could not provide the incentives to the good teachers.

He could not accept such a "flat earth" pay structure with no incentive and no promotion post.

Mr James Pawsy (Rugby and Kenilworth, C): The parents will respect what is being done and acknowledge that the pay on the table for the teachers is a good deal for the profession, for schools and for teachers.

Mr Baker: The amount available is the largest in any teachers' pay deal - £60 million and it is a great pity that the negotiators spent it in a way which intensifies the flat-earth approach to pay structure.

Mr Clement Freud (North East Cambridgeshire, L): Does he genuinely think this negotiation of negotiating procedure will bring long-lasting peace?

Mr Baker: There can be no justification for disruption.

Mr Jack Drommond (Essex, Lab): His proposals are a recipe for further disruption. He makes great play with the fact that this is the biggest increase there has been but the proportion is not as great as was agreed in the Houghton report. How does he intend to implement assessment of teachers. Whether it is by head teachers, local inspectors or HM inspectors, it is an exceedingly difficult task and nothing like as easy as he is making out.

Mr Baker: In our discussions with local authorities we have agreed on six pilot projects which I intend to agree to fund. There is no one set method for appraisal of teachers.

Mr Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab): If he had said down and planned disruption, Mr Baker could not have done a more brilliant job than making this statement. If he persists in his attitude, there is not the slightest doubt the teachers will react. The profession is unified against what the Government is doing.

Mr Baker: He cannot say the profession is unified. A substantial amount has been provided for a settlement. Many working parents who are not likely to see the sort of increase available in these proposals will resent it if the teachers walk out on their classes.

He said later that he had no plans to transfer teachers' salaries from local authorities to central government responsibility.



Mr Baker: Useful progress has been made.

set up a system of appraisal, established negotiating machinery, linked pay and conditions and defined maximum class size for the first time.

While accepting that there remained differences between the Secretary of State's position and the agreement, particularly over structure and costs, these differences had been exaggerated.

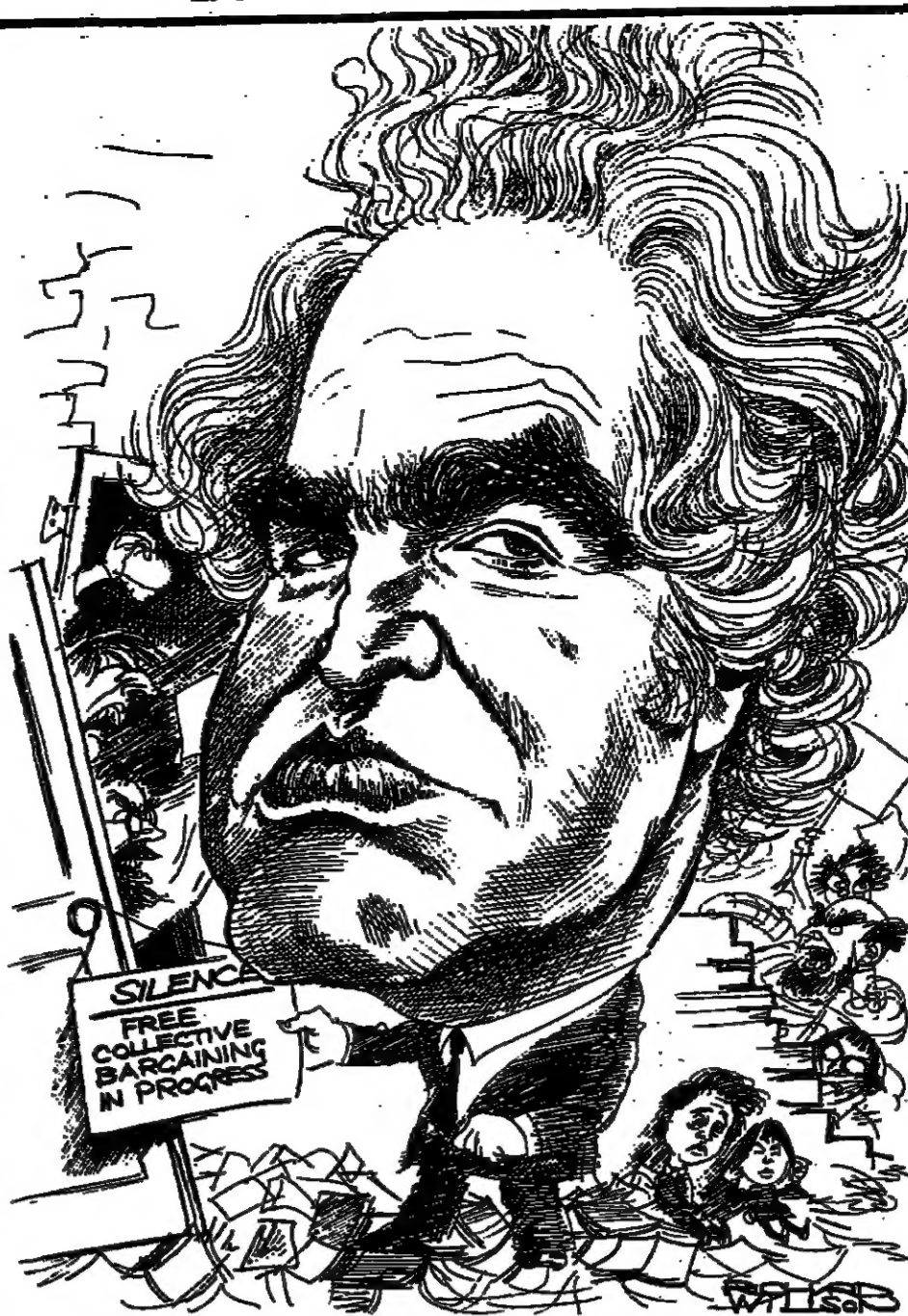
"Is he really telling the House that these difficulties are insurmountable? Is it not the case that the employers made it abundantly clear to him last night that they are prepared to discuss the differences in a flexible and reasonable manner?"

"So far the Secretary of State's handling of the dispute has been inept", he said, to loud protests from the Government benches.

"His ham-fisted intervention at Nottingham, and his unfortunate comment to the House just 30 hours before there was a settlement, about the talks being a fiasco."

"He still has a chance to redeem himself by talking seriously and constructively to the employers and teachers and reaching an agreement with them. Will he confirm that he is going to do this, because parents will not forgive him or the Government if he fails to grasp this opportunity for lasting peace in our schools?"

Mr Baker said that six weeks ago Mr Radice had accused him of dithering for not making his position clear. Now when he did make it clear he was accused of being ham-fisted and inept.



Mr Giles Radice: Attack on an "inept and ham-fisted" Secretary of State.

Anglo-Irish pact fears 'are manifestly false'

The Anglo-Irish agreement was a way in which by good will and co-operation a happier future would be seen for people both in Northern Ireland and the Republic.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said in the Commons.

One year on, while people might be critical of the lack of achievement, they could not be ignorant that many of the allegations, fears and misrepresentations which existed at the start had proved to be manifestly false.

Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, OUP): Five months ago Mr King told the House in the context of the agreement that he expected ratification of this agreement by the Convention on Terrorism by the Irish Republic to go forward shortly. Has something gone wrong?

Mr King: No. The Bill for ratification was signed by the Irish Minister of Justice some time ago. It was tabled in the Dail for its parliamentary procedures only this week.

Mr Michael Colvin (Romsey and Waterside, C): Would he get a message through to the Garda that Sunday are working days where the IRA are concerned? What were the Garda doing about patrolling the south side of the border last Sunday when my old regiment were mortared by the IRA?

Mr King: I fully share his concern about the incident and on Sunday phoned the Irish Minister of Justice about it. One must be fair and recognize that it is the first mortar attack, so far as I am aware, that has taken place from the Republic.

Mr Roy Mason (Barnsley Central, Lab): What improvement has taken place in security co-operation between the RUC and the Garda in the past 12 months, particularly on cross-border operations?

Mr King: There is now the detailed first assessment which has been agreed. There has been agreement between the Garda and the RUC on co-operation on intelligence matters and the

IRELAND

methods of organizing it, on organization structure and on certain details of communications into which I am not prepared to go into detail in public.

Mr Ian Gow (Eastbourne, C): Does not the experience of the first 12 months show that instead of peace there has been strife, instead of stability, turmoil, and instead of reconciliation, sectarian suspicion? What progress has he made in securing from the majority community acceptance of this agreement?

Mr King: I share to the full the concerns about the tensions and difficulties which exist within the province. He knows the history of Northern Ireland too well to suggest that somehow divisions and strife have suddenly broken out in the past year. We are seeking to move away from the tragic background which has now lasted for many years.

Mr John Hume (Foye, SDLP): Has he taken into account the recommendation made yesterday by the Standing Advisory Committee on Human Rights, a Government-appointed body, that to improve the public conception of the administration of justice in Northern Ireland there should be three judges in the Diplock courts instead of one?

Mr King: It is not a unanimous report. There was a note of dissent by two members of the committee.

The report itself does not question the quality of justice at present in Northern Ireland and points out the very real problems that would exist. As to the idea that this is just a matter of political attitudes, there are real and practical problems concerned in this issue.

It is a matter that is likely to be on the agenda for further discussion. We have made no secret of our concern about the

difficulties that would exist over this issue.

Mr Ivor Stanbrook (Orpington, C): Twelve months after the conclusion of the agreement the majority remain unilaterally opposed to it. The best way forward is to find an agreement acceptable to the majority in accordance with democratic principles as well as being fair to the minority.

Mr King: The objective of successive British governments has been precisely that. There has been the unwillingness of one party after another and each party is equally guilty of abstaining at one stage or another from our various initiatives to try to find some way forward. I regret the present attitude of the majority community.

Mr Robert Maclean (Caithness and Sutherland, SDP) later said that there was considerable interest in the possibility of developing local representative democracy in Northern Ireland even if there was a stalemate in the central institutions of government. That would strengthen local control over local decision-making.

Mr Richard Needham, Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said that as part of the devolution package which the Government was likely to put forward on Northern Ireland it was worth considering if only members of the majority parties were prepared to go into negotiation with ministers, it was something they would wish to consider.

Mr Stuart Bell, an Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, asked for an assurance that talks with the majority community on devolution would not involve suspension of the Northern Ireland agreement.

Mr Needham: I shall speak to anyone who comes to my door, and in the present framework of government I only wish the majority would find the way to my door.

Thatcher stands her ground on Wright case

PRIME MINISTER

The issues raised by the Peter Wright case dominated Prime Minister's question time in the Commons with Mrs Thatcher, in the teeth of noisy Labour protests, refusing to comment on security matters, saying that she was following the precedent set by previous prime ministers and acting in accordance with *Erskine May*, the guide to parliamentary procedure.

The exchanges were opened by Mr John Heffille (Mid Staffordshire, C) who asked: Is it not the case that all those who work for British intelligence have a life-long duty of confidentiality to the Crown? Is it not the duty of the Government of the day and of the Opposition parties to uphold that fundamental principle and not to relegate it for party political purposes?

Mrs Thatcher replied: He is right. Heretofore, governments of all parties have upheld that fundamental principle, otherwise the effectiveness of the security services would be undermined. I pay tribute to the overwhelming majority of those in the security services, who recognize their obligations and duty of confidentiality.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition: May I warmly endorse both the last question and the last answer?

Will the Prime Minister tell us if the decision not to impede the publication of Mr Chapman Pincher's book in 1981 was taken personally by the Attorney General?

Mrs Thatcher: As I said to the House last Thursday, it would be inappropriate for me to comment on matters which may arise in the proceedings concerning the Peter Wright case in Australia while these proceedings continue.

On the general question of security matters, I shall follow the precedent set by previous prime ministers and I understand upheld in *Erskine May* is not commenting on security matters.

Mr Kinnock: This is a specific question about decisions and responsibilities inside the Government that has no implications whatever for matters of national security. While it does not raise questions about the security services, it does raise questions about the competence and integrity of the Government.

So will the Prime Minister give a straight answer to a straight question: Did the Attorney General take either or both of these decisions personally? In these matters, is the Attorney General a fool or a fall guy?

Mrs Thatcher: His question I think is totally unworthy. On the general question of security, I shall follow the precedent set by previous prime ministers and I understand upheld in *Erskine May*.

Legal onslaught on minister

The following is a summary of debates in the Commons that appeared in later editions of this newspaper yesterday.

The Government's position on the dispute at J.A. Hanger & Co, the Rochester company that supplies artificial limbs, was legally unsound, Mr Frank Dobson, an Opposition spokesman on health, said in moving an Opposition motion regarding the interruption of service to severely disabled people.

He said that the contract for the supply and fitting of limbs was not between the company and the people. It was between the company and the Government.

Failure to provide a proper service was in breach of that contract. Yet still the Government refused to take resolute action to end the dispute which had been going on for 10 weeks and a day.

The company was run by odious toads. DHSS ministers were craven and complacent and they would rather patients suffered and workers and their families went without than risk offending the sort of company on which the Prime Minister doted.

Mr John Major, Minister for Social Security, moved a government amendment urging the management and workforce to resolve the dispute without delay and noting with approval the Government's initiatives to minimize inconvenience to patients.

He said this was an industrial dispute between the management and one part of its workforce and it could be resolved only by them.

Mr Toby Jessel (Twickenham, C) said that from what he had heard tonight the management was unimpressive and had shown poor qualities of leadership in the workforce.

Mr Nicholas Lyell, Under-Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, said that of the 53,000 lower-limb patients, 29,000 were Hanger's patients, of whom 3,000 relied on Rochester. Of those 350 had been affected by the dispute and 116 of them were priority cases, including 13 children. There had been fewer than 10 complaints and all had been dealt with.

The Opposition motion was rejected by 246 votes to 167. Government majority, 79, and the Government amendment was carried by 210 votes to 21 - Government majority, 189.

● **BUS RULES:** The benefits to bus passengers from the deregulation of routes under the Transport Act, 1985, were now beginning to be shown, Mr James Moore, Secretary of State for Transport, maintained during a Commons debate.

Labour MPs, however, took a different view and complained of loss of services, irregular timetabling and huge increases

Minimum wage 'with caution'

By Roy Hattersley, the shadow Chancellor, said yesterday that a future Labour government would proceed cautiously in introducing a national minimum wage.

Implementation of the policy, agreed at the TUC conference in the face of fierce opposition from the transport workers' and the electricians' unions, would not be "easy or without some penalties", he said.

Speaking at a Fabian Society conference in London, Mr Hattersley said: "A national minimum wage has to be phased into our wage structure with some care..."

"No responsible party - and no responsible trade union movement - could make an exact commitment on either the level or timing a year before a general election."

At the TUC conference, Mr Ron Todd, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, opposed the move, saying it could be a slippery slope to a statutory incomes policy.

Mr Hattersley met that charge head on, insisting that he was opposed to such a policy and that a minimum wage would enhance trade union activity.

Minimum wage 'with caution'

Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, was branded yesterday the most dangerous member of the Cabinet as the Alliance launched a bitter attack on the Government for eroding the powers of local authorities.

It claimed that the real motive behind "Tory paranoia" about "loony left" councils was the desire to reduce local government to parish-pump status and to concentrate control in Whitehall.

It singled out Mr Baker - "the mad to Tebbitt's rocker" - for special scorn because behind his disarming manner he was destroying the independence of local education authorities through setting up new schools funded directly by his department and was now poised to impose a settlement in the teachers' pay dispute.

Mr Adrian Slade, president-elect of the Liberal Party, said: "I believe the current Baker, Tebbitt, Ridley obsession with the ineptitudes and uselessness of local government is pure Tory paranoia."

"Where sensible people are actually in charge and conducting government sensibly then local government works well."

Mrs Shirley Williams, president of the SDP, said local politics was becoming

Alliance and the councils

Baker 'most dangerous man'

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter



Mrs Williams: Local politics more polarized.

More and more polarized as Labour used the town halls to launch a crusade against the Government and ministers responded in kind. This dogfight was "ripping the country apart".

The Conservatives were paving the way for a "steady reduction" in local authorities' remaining powers, she said.

Referring to the "political chicanery" of the Tory chairman's attacks on the hard left, she said that he ignored the obvious solution - proportional representation in council elections.

"He is using Labour councils as battering rams to put Labour in the dock and he is doing it without any consid-

eration at all for good administration and the people of this country."

The attack on Mr Baker came from Mr David Williams, Alliance leader of the London Borough of Richmond.

Mrs Williams, a former Labour Secretary of State for Education and Science, said that if Mr Baker decided to "hijack the teachers' pay settlement" it would amount to the "greatest act of centralization since the introduction of compulsory education in 1870".

The Alliance counter-attack on the Conservatives came at a press conference to launch a booklet extolling his achievements at local level.

It says that about 40 per cent of the population live under an authority with Alliance influence and the number of Liberal and SDP councillors has risen from 1,912 in 1982 to 3,080 in May this year.

Of the country's 513 councils, 105 were subject to Alliance influence, of which 24 were majority or minority administrations.

Value for money, giving tenants more say over the management of their estates, better equipped schools and open government are among the changes wrought by recent shifts of power in towns and shires, the booklet says.

Minister refuses to rush report

There was no question of the Government's jumping in with action ahead of consideration of the Sampson report on the RUC, Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said yesterday.

He said that there was no question of the progress of the two-part report.

Mr Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab): The failure of the Government to react in a democratic manner to this by clearing the air, and the widespread publicity everywhere, leads people to think that the suspicion that the Government is concealing something is real. Why did they subject Mr Stalker to all the suspicions, and his family to misery, when they could clear it up by an appropriate report?

Mr King: He appears to be unaware that the Sampson report was made on October 25 and has been with the Chief Constable and is with the Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland. The second report will come forward shortly. These are serious matters which may lead to criminal proceedings. There is no question of the Government jumping in ahead of them. The proper procedures and processes of law will be carried through. It is my concern that the matter should be proceeded with at the earliest opportunity. The deputy Chief Constable of Manchester is nothing to do with me, but the Manchester police authority.

Mr Anthony Lloyd (Stretford, Lab): Taking Mr Stalker out of that inquiry led to widespread belief that there was some kind

of conspiracy or some attempt to make out that areas he was investigating would not be reached.

Mr King: I bitterly regret that the inquiry was not more speedy than that there was this interruption. He appears to be unaware of the background. The inquiry was at the request of the Chief Constable of the RUC, who appointed Mr Stalker.

He then received information from the Chief Constable of Manchester that Mr Stalker was no longer available and against that background took immediate steps to see that the inquiry proceeded by appointing someone else. Any question about the suspension of Mr Stalker by Manchester police authority was not a matter for me.

Mr Warren Hawley (The Wrekin, C): Is he satisfied that the inquiry was done thoroughly and to his satisfaction?

Mr King: It is not possible at this stage to reach that judgment. The reports have been with the Chief Constable and the DPP. I have not seen them. I shall see the first shortly. I have made clear that I shall want to address a number of matters.

Miss Betty Boothroyd's question to the Prime Minister (Parliament, November 26) should have read: "In the light of recent disclosures showing that President Reagan's admission of a limited supply of arms to Iran fell very far short of the truth, does Mrs Thatcher still stand by her original statement that she believes implicitly in the President's integrity in this matter?"

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Decision football deferred

Commercial may face

Ps and lawyers changes in ju

left-case American spelled

Decision on Bradford football fire claims deferred till next year

By Ian Smith, Northern Correspondent

Relatives of the 56 supporters who died in Britain's most catastrophic football stadium disaster will not learn until next year whether they can claim millions of pounds in damages for their losses.

After a 14-day hearing at the High Court in Leeds to hear legal arguments supporting liability claims against Bradford City Football Club, the now defunct West Yorkshire County Council and the Health and Safety Executive, Mr Justice Cantley said he needed time to consider his judgement.

He told barristers he hoped people would understand the necessity to examine details of the case very carefully and the time needed to read case papers. He would deliver his judgement in the High Court in London as soon as possible in the new year.

Earlier the claim for damages against the Government's Health and Safety Executive was dropped after it was accepted that the safety executive had fulfilled its statutory obligations - although it had done nothing more.

Probably because of inadequate training, the HSE's principal inspector responsible for entertainment complex safety conditions, did not alert the local authority of the

fire hazard he saw at Valley Parade football ground, it was claimed.

He had complied with his duties, merely by forwarding to West Yorkshire County Council a copy of the warning letter he had sent to the football club.

Safety executive inspectors responsible for assessing fire risks should receive proper training as a matter of urgency, Mr Michael Ogden, QC, said. He represents Police Sergeant David Britton and Mrs Susan Fletcher who lost her husband, son, brother-in-law and his father in the fire on May 11 last year.

His condemnatory attack switched to the now-defunct West Yorkshire County Council.

He said it had an elected fire committee and safety team selected by fire officers which together were responsible for examining various aspects of safety. Yet during the past 14 days not one word of evidence had been presented that the fire committee actually did anything to exercise their duties under the Sports Grounds Act.

There was no policy which precluded their taking action over known fire hazards, but there existed the practice of merely informing occupiers of

the existence of such a hazard.

Three laymen had agreed in evidence that the Valley Parade stadium was a potential fire trap, and the fire brigade who were controlled by the county council, had received a letter informing them of the danger, Mr Ogden said.

"Therefore one says, what did they do? A copy of the letter was sent to the Deputy Senior Fire Prevention Officer."

Arguing that the county council were negligent in their role as local fire authority, Mr Ogden said any competent fire prevention officer would have assessed the situation and said: "Heavens, here is an appalling situation" and immediately taken whatever action necessary.

The letter written by the county council to Bradford City Football Club was woefully inadequate, he said, because it failed to give a warning of the risk in clear, strong language and did not ask the club to stop using the stand.

"Had they done so the overwhelming probability is that this terrible disaster would never have occurred. The whole point of statutory powers is to stop people being killed or injured and sadly that did not happen in this case."



Debbie Moore, in black, with models Joanna Green, Sally Nicholson and Catherine Pierce (left to right) at the launch of the 1987 Pineapple collection, in London, yesterday. The collection features more than 200 garments and the girls are in 'easy to wear' leisure clothes that combine zips with soft fleecy fabrics (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

200 arts groups get cash ultimatum

By Gavin Bell, Arts Correspondent

The Arts Council has issued an ultimatum to more than 200 arts organizations to cut their losses, in view of what it regards as the persistent failure of government funding to keep pace with inflation.

Before considering future support for theatres, operas, orchestras and other clients, the council will require them to prepare a balanced budget,

and to prove that they can remain solvent, on the basis of their current grants.

They include the four national institutions: the Royal Opera House, the National Theatre, the Royal Shakespeare Company and English National Opera.

Mr Luke Rittner, secretary-general of the council, said yesterday the decision had been prompted by concern at the number of companies facing increasing deficits.

It would force some to curtail their activities, and could lead others in severe financial difficulties to close down, he said.

About 26 of the 220 organizations which receive Arts Council funds had deficits of more than £50,000 at the end of the last financial year. Of those, 14 were in debt to the tune of more than £100,000.

Prominent among them is the Leicester Haymarket The-

atre, which is struggling to reduce an accumulated deficit of almost £300,000.

Mr Rittner said the council was working with its clients to raise income from other sources, particularly local authorities.

The council is to receive £138.4 million from the Government for 1987-88. It had estimated its needs at £164 million. It would require a minimum of £140 million to maintain the status quo.

RAF will fight off airline recruiting

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

A shortage of civilian pilots is threatening the RAF. British Airways will be advertising for more than 100 qualified pilots next autumn. Other airlines are expected to offer high salaries to tempt military pilots to join them.

Now the RAF is launching a counter-attack with a campaign designed to convince officers they should stay in the service. It also wants to spend more money on married quarters - up to 70 per cent of which are regarded as sub-standard. But the estimated £400 million needed is unlikely to be made available by the Treasury.

The problems faced by civil airlines arises largely from "the lost decade" during which no new pilots were trained because it was felt that there were too many already flying.

Recent studies by the Air Transport Industry Training Association have given a warning of the gap in the numbers and the obvious place to look is the RAF.

In the service there is a "bulge" of officers either reaching the age of 38 or having completed eight or 16 years service when they have to decide to remain in the RAF or leave to take up a career in civil aviation.

Commercial court may face curbs

Restrictions on access by litigants to the commercial court through greatly increased fees and a bar on any case involving less than £50,000 are called for by the Lord Chancellor's Department as ways to tackle delays, in a report published today (Our Legal Affairs Correspondent writes). The report is part of a full-scale review of the civil courts by Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone.

It also calls for more High Court judges to be appointed to the court and for targets within which cases must come to trial.

It says the "substantial increase in the court's workload and its effect on waiting times" has led to complaints of serious delay in hearing of cases.

The average waiting time for trial has grown from eight months in 1980 to 27 months this year, it says, and the court is fast increasing in popularity.

Recommending a monetary limit of £50,000, the report says claims on the court varied from £345 to £9 million and such a limit would immediately remove from the court's jurisdiction a "significant number of cases".

It recommends the cost of issuing a writ, or transferring a case into the court, should rise from £60 to £500; and fees for interim applications could be increased from £10 to £100.

A rise in fees would also discourage "small unmeritorious actions" and mean that users of the court were "paying for the privilege of using it". But if these proposals to restrict access are unacceptable, the report says litigants should instead have to apply for leave to transfer a case to the court, although this could badly effect waiting lists.

The report also proposes an increase in the court's judicial strength from five to six judges.

Other proposals are for temporary judges to be appointed from among commercial QCs to help cut the backlog; an automatic timetable of six months within which pleadings should be exchanged and evidence disclosed; monitoring by the court of the progress of cases to ensure lawyers stick to the timetable and allocation of complex cases to one judge.

Research carried out for the Lord Chancellor by the management consultants, Coopers and Lybrand, also published today discloses that more than 2,000 writs have been issued so far this year compared with 913 for the whole of 1979.

Although most cases in the court are short, it showed there are exceptional cases.

Reports from Lord Chancellor's Department (Room 611, Trevelyan House, London SW1P 2BY).

MPs and lawyers fight changes in jury trials

Lawyers, civil libertarians and MPs united yesterday to try to force the Government to change plans to abolish the defence right to challenge jurors (Our Legal Affairs Correspondent writes).

At a meeting at the House of Commons, timed to coincide with the second reading of the Criminal Justice Bill, the Law Society outlined a package of alternative measures which could make more effective use of crown court time without undermining jury trial.

Mr Andrew Lockley, secretary of the society's litigation committee, told a meeting of the all-party civil liberties group of MPs that it was time "to stop nibbling at the right to jury trial".

Instead the society is urging the Government to include measures in the Criminal Justice Bill to stop magistrates sending offenders to the crown court for sentence unnecessarily.

ity; and to give magistrates power to deal with breaches of some crown court orders, such as probation orders.

The Law Society, Criminal Bar Association and civil libertarians are all opposed to government proposals to abolish a defendant's right to challenge jurors. There is also concern about plans to remove trial by jury for some offences.

A judge's ruling that a confession may be admissible even if police breach the codes of practice under the new Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 was criticized as "very worrying" by the National Council for Civil Liberties yesterday.

Mr Justice Stuart-Smith earlier this week ruled a confession admissible in a murder trial at Exeter Crown Court, although the defendant was denied access to a solicitor.

Theft-case American expelled

An American accused of stealing from £1.60 million and £3.30 million from his employer, Kuwait Airways, was ordered to be extradited to the United States at a hearing at Bow Street Magistrates' Court in London yesterday.

Robert Sensi, aged 35, appeared on 18 specimen charges alleging theft of various amounts of cash, totalling £266,000 between 1980 and August this year.

Through his solicitor, Mr Robert Roscoe, Mr Sensi agreed not to challenge any of the evidence and agreed that the extradition papers were in order.

The court was told that Mr Sensi was arrested in London in August by British police after a request for extradition by the US government.

'Dealers in death' sentenced

Two shopkeepers were yesterday given suspended prison sentences and fined for "dealing with death" by selling lighter-fuel for snuffing to two boys.

It was the first successful prosecution of its kind.

Mr Chris Worthington, for the prosecution, told Brentford magistrates in Middlesex that Abdul Karim, aged 52, and his wife, Samsa, aged 51, had sold the teenagers between 70 and 80 cans from their shop in St John's Road, Isleworth, Middlesex. They denied the charge.

Mr Jack Hyde, the magistrate, said their actions were "completely callous" and could have killed the boys.

He gave them each a three-month prison sentence, suspended for two years, and fined them £1,500 each.

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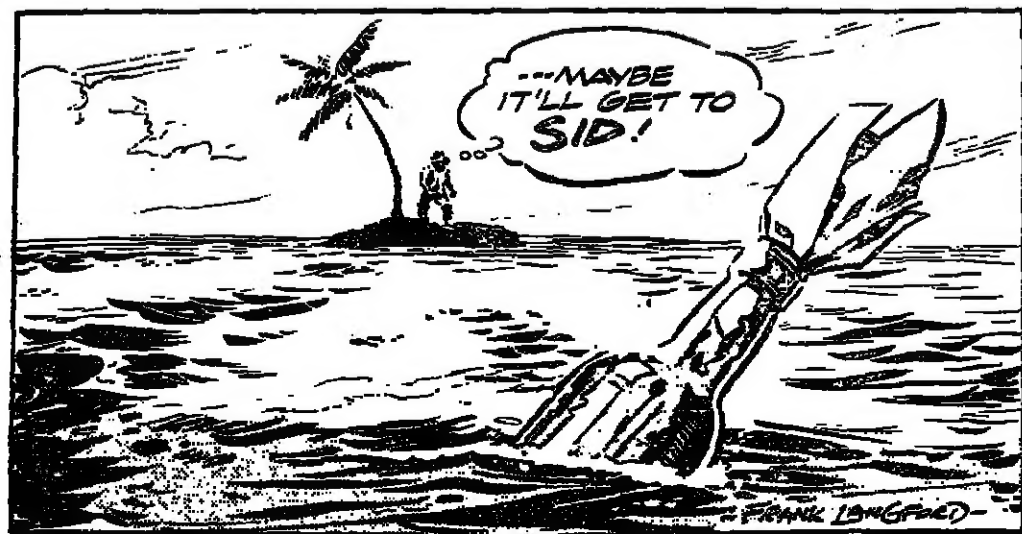
Postal applications must be received by 10am next Wednesday, December 3rd. Use first class post and allow at least 2 days for delivery.

Alternatively, hand in your application at any UK branch of NatWest, Bank of Scotland or Ulster Bank before close of business next Tuesday, December 2nd.

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D O N T A I D A I D S

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Call to widen new-style video questioning in cases of child abuse

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

High Court judges are ruling that children have been sexually abused in a growing number of civil cases, as a result of a new questioning technique developed by the child abuse team at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London, and shown to courts on videotape. As a result, pressure is mounting for its use in criminal trials, by trained interviewers appointed by the prosecution, as a first step towards five video links as proposed by the Government. The team, headed by Dr Arnon Bentovim, pioneered the controversial video-taped interview session on an anatomically life-like dolls to help children articulate what they had experienced. But the technique has been criticised by a number of judges and lawyers when they saw it on videotapes in court in wardship cases and judges were refusing to accept the interviews as evidence of child abuse. Now the team has developed a new structured interview, based partly on suggestions made in two judgements in May, by Mr Justice Lacey and Mr Justice Waite, which is having much greater success in finding abuse where other methods of investigation have failed. Dr Bentovim said: "In one case we had questioned the child and got nowhere. Using our new structured interview the little girl gave a convincing disclosure, such that when her father was challenged with it he immediately acknowledged the abuse." It has also taken on board criticisms of Mr Justice Ewbank in July. He expressed "grave disquiet" about the evidential value of the diagnostic interviews at the clinic.

Shake-up sought in law advice services

A network of advice centres, more thorough training for lawyers and standard fees are urgently needed to help people cope with the growing number of legal problems, the Government's consumer watchdog said yesterday. "People's needs for advice on highly complex legal matters appear to be ever-increasing and there is a vast area of unmet need," Mr Michael Montague, chairman of the National Consumer Council, said. A national network of advice centres was needed, he said. He also called for a further relaxation of restrictions on solicitors' advertising services. He added there was a need for wider training as few solicitors had expertise of problems most likely to affect the less well-off - problems with debt, welfare rights, landlord and tenant disputes, immigration and unemployment.



James Cornwall comes face to face with a model punk - part of the entry from Merrywood Boys' School, Knowle, Bristol, in Cadbury's National Exhibition of Children's Art at the Royal Festival Hall. The exhibition's young painter of the year is Justin Mortimer, aged 15, from Reading, Berkshire (Photograph: Peter Trifunov).

Woman limb fitter loses equal pay battle

An artificial limb fitter from Glasgow had her claim for equal pay with a male colleague rejected by the House of Lords yesterday. The law lords unanimously agreed that the Greater Glasgow Health Board had "good and objectively justified" grounds for paying Mrs Elizabeth Rainey £2,790 a year less than the £10,085 earned by Mr Alan Crumlin at the Belvidere Hospital. Dismissing the test case appeal Lord Keith of Kinkaid agreed with the findings of a Scottish industrial tribunal and the Court of Session. "The fact that one is a woman and the other a man is an accident," Lord Keith said. The difference arose because Mr Crumlin had been recruited from the private sector when the National Health Service took over the limb service in 1980. Without offering him and others from the private sector wages no less favourable than they were already enjoying the NHS could never have established the service in reasonable time, Lord Keith said. When Mrs Rainey joined the service later that year she was, in his opinion, "for sound, objectively justified administrative reasons" paid the normal NHS rates. It would have been highly irregular if limb fitters, alone were to have a different pay scale than the rest of the NHS, Lord Keith said. "It was not a question of Mrs Rainey being paid less than the norm but of Mr Crumlin being paid more."

Drug haul totals £104m in a year

Illegal drugs worth more than £100 million were seized by customs and excise in the year up to March 31. There were 4,182 seizures of drugs worth an estimated £104 million, compared with 3,539 seizures worth £97 million the previous year, according to the annual report of the Customs and Excise Board. The number of people arrested for drugs offences increased by 127 to 1,801, and 807 people were sentenced to terms of imprisonment varying from one day to 16 years. A record total of 74 kilos of cocaine was seized compared with 45 kilos the previous year. The report points out that more cocaine is reaching Britain via the Continent, and an increasing number of seizures was made from passengers arriving on European flights or at Channel ports. Heroin seizures were down by one kilo to 316 kilos, but cannabis seizures increased from 20,562 kilos to 21,676 kilos. Enforcement of endangered species legislation led to the seizure of 264 live birds and animals, 26 fertile birds of prey eggs and 4,500 articles derived from endangered species. More than 53,100 obscene and indecent articles were seized, compared with 43,400 the previous year. There were 25 prosecutions for export offences involving arms and strategic goods. Jail sentences totalling 13 years and 10 months and fines of £330,572 were imposed on 13 people.

Local authority finance: 2

Trouble ahead for reform of rates

In spite of widespread agreement that the domestic rating system is unfair, the Government's plans for reform are being hotly contested. Robin Oakley, Political Editor, looks at some of the reasons.

The Government's plans for drastic rates reforms, being tested in Scotland first, provide for rates to be phased out over a period and replaced by a "community charge" (the chosen euphemism for a poll tax) payable by all adults over 18.

This requires a register of all those liable to pay, separate from the electoral register to avoid the charge of deterring people from registering to vote and including those not eligible to do so.

There will also be a uniform business rate for non-domestic ratepayers, determined and collected by central government with the proceeds shared out among councils according to their number of residents. A simplified central grants system will offer councils greater stability and allow for variations in need.

With the average rate bill in 1984-85 of £322 that would require a community charge when fully operative of only £155, a considerable benefit to those suffering under the present system.

But change is always fought, especially in local government. And it is not just the Government's opponents who are finding snags in the reform plans. The community charge is being criticized as expensive to collect and impractical.

Problems which surfaced at a seminar conducted by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy included: what to do about those with two homes, what is the legal definition of a resident, how to ensure the accuracy of a register when only 60-80 per cent in inner cities return their voter registration forms, with no potential cost involved? How do you cope with urban areas where 25 per cent of those living there are likely to move in a year?

Do you introduce registration for the use of council services to catch the cheats? How do you enforce payment when a grown-up son or daughter claims to have moved out of the parental home? How much rebate will there be for the unemployed?

Brain unit appeal

An appeal has been launched to set up a special hospital unit offering new hope to victims of severe brain injuries (Our Science Correspondent writes).

The campaign to raise £1.94 million for the unit, to be built in London, is being supported by the Prince of Wales.

Most of the victims of what doctors described as a "silent epidemic" are under 25 years old. The Development Trust for the Young Disabled plans to build the new unit, providing 45 beds, at the Royal Hospital and Home for Incurables in Putney.

Dr John Wedgwood, consultant for the project, said: "With advances in care and treatment we hope to give some patients the ability to work and to resume life with a degree of dignity."



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Peter Barkworth reads scripts on a train.

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Iranian regime 'shaken by links'

By Hahzir Teimourian

Mr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, Iran's first President after the Islamic revolution of February 1979, said yesterday that the disclosures of Iran's arms purchases from the United States and Israel had shaken the regime of Ayatollah Khomeini to its foundations.

They had also weakened the position of Hojatoleslam Ali-Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the parliamentary Speaker, as the main contender for power after Ayatollah Khomeini.

Speaking to *The Times* from his place of exile in Paris, Mr Bani-Sadr said the sudden arrest in Tehran on charges of immorality of Mr Manuchehr Nikrouz, the parliamentary Deputy for the Jewish community, showed that the regime did not know how to react to the revelations that it had been dealing with Israel, whose obliteration it had consistently promised its supporters.

"Khomeini is desperate to maintain an anti-Israel posture."

Mr Bani-Sadr said the first secret contacts with Israel were made in 1980 by a faction of the ruling clergy but that he, as chairman of the Supreme Revolutionary Council, had stopped them.

"But the contacts were resumed after they carried out their coup against me. Ever since, a vast flood of weaponry has been on its way from Israel to Iran."

Mr Bani-Sadr had no doubts about who had sabotaged the arms deals and the release of American hostages in Lebanon. "It was an anti-Rafsanjani faction within the Foreign Ministry that was in charge of Islamic Jihad, the kidnapping gang," he said.

ROME: No sooner had the Italians managed to smooth over their alleged involvement in the affair of supplying arms for Iran than the Iranians themselves delivered two strongly-worded protests against a sketch said to have been "sacrilegious" on Italy's state television and withdrew their ambassador (Peter Nichols writes).

At the same time the Iranian authorities closed the Italian Cultural Institute in Tehran.

According to the embassy here the decision to withdraw the ambassador was taken because the parody in the television programme of Ayatollah Khomeini was taken as "a grave insult."

As the sketch went out on the Italian state network the embassy said it felt the Italian government should have taken up the matter. Signor Giuseppe Baldacci, the Italian ambassador in Iran, was summoned for the second time on Wednesday evening to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was somewhat taken aback to learn that the sketch was seen to have possibly "grave consequences on relations between the two countries."

The parody of Iran's leader amounted to a "hostile measure" and threats were uttered that Iran would "make the Italians repeat their disgusting behaviour."

The ten men at the heart of Reagan's arms crisis



President Reagan's troubled Cabinet in session in the White House discussing the Iran arms crisis. Clockwise from left: Mr Reagan, Mr George Shultz (obscured), Mr Caspar Weinberger, Defence Secretary, Mr Edwin Meese, Attorney General, Mr William Casey, head of the CIA, Admiral John Poindexter, Congressman Jim Wright, Senator Robert Byrd, Senator Robert Dole and Vice-President George Bush.

Contras say cash from Iran arms deals could have paid for air drops

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Contra leaders, who at first denied all knowledge of the funds funnelled from the Iran arms sales, are now saying that the secret operation that flew weapons to their forces in Nicaragua could have been financed by the Iran shipments.

Mr Adolfo Calero, a senior Contra leader based in Miami, said that the Contras received "services", including the air resupply operation, from several unnamed donors. But he never knew how much these cost, or who organized and paid for them.

It is being suggested, however, that each clandestine flight over Nicaragua cost at least \$30,000 (£21,000) and some 80 flights were made in the past year. Between February and October 5, when a cargo plane was shot down, the resupply operation, run from a Salvadoran military air base, cost well over \$2 million, sources say. But the Contras contend that their private backers in the US were unable to raise more than \$500,000 from normal appeals during that period.

New evidence has also emerged suggesting that Major-General Richard Secord, a retired Air Force officer who once served in Iran and was a senior Pentagon official for the Middle East, played a key role in the resupply programme. He had close links to Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North, the dismissed military adviser in the National Security Council responsible for the operation.

General Secord has been named as the buyer of five C-123 cargo planes used in the US supply runs from the US through El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica into Nicaragua. One of these was shot down on October 5, and

the sole American survivor, Mr Eugene Hasenfus, gave many details of the operation. Initially the Contra leaders denied all knowledge of the secret Swiss bank funds. Mr Calero, who oversees procurement of military supplies, said that he was not aware of any connection with Iran and denied flatly that he had drawn any funds from Switzerland.

"These revelations were unloaded on us all of a sudden," he said. "We have been like innocent bystanders at a car accident."

The resupply network was told that its money came from "foreign sources", but it now

The state-controlled Soviet media yesterday reacted with undisguised glee to the Reagan Administration's severe political difficulties over the Iran affair (Christopher Walker writes from Moscow). Tass claimed last night the incident had laid bare "the adventurism, duplicity and treachery of US foreign policy before the whole world."

emerges that the network involved former Central Intelligence Agency staff, including some with ties to the office of Vice-President Bush.

Mr Bush has said nothing on the Iran affair and has resolutely avoided answering all reporters' questions at public functions. He was cleared by Mr Edwin Meese, the Attorney-General, of any knowledge of the Contra connection but many questions remain on his links with the Contras.

Intelligence sources say that the profits from the Iran arms sale were deposited in the account of Credit Fiduciare Services, a Geneva invest-

ment banking operation run by several former CIA officials, including General Secord, Mr Theodore Shackley and Mr Thomas Clines.

Telephone records from El Salvador show that several calls were placed to General Secord's home and business place in North Virginia last summer from a "safe house" tied to the resupply operation.

He has acknowledged having sold one small aircraft last year, but has denied having commanded the Contra air force. He has also suggested that he had an advisory role in the Iran arms shipments, but has refused to say how he was involved.

Federal investigators are also trying to discover whether the middle men involved in the flights and resupply drops syphoned off money by themselves. The high cost of the flights over Nicaragua was said to be a result of the "risk factor".

The investigations will subpoena documents, records and even any telephone intercepts as they gather evidence.

Monitored telephone conversations played a big part in the original discovery of the Contra connection. A secret intelligence intercept quoted Iranians and perhaps others discussing the price of weapons in amounts that appeared to be far greater than their actual value, prompting the search for the profits and the reason they were diverted.

Sources say that while the resupply operation cost millions of dollars - with monthly costs running about \$100,000 for aircraft, fuel and salaries - it is unlikely that the Contras received as much as \$10 million, the lowest figure cited by Mr Meese as having been diverted to the Contra effort.



Nicaragua connection

Long-standing ties with Israel, PLO

By Robert Fisk, Middle East Correspondent

The millions of dollars of profit from US-Iranian arms sales that were channelled to the Contra guerrillas in central America form only the latest chapter in a long history of military involvement in Nicaragua by the Israelis and the Palestinians.

The Israeli authorities and the Palestinian Liberation Organization in Lebanon have helped to arm or train pro- and anti-government forces during the past seven years, although Nicaragua's first contact with the Middle East conflict was as long ago as 1940.

The Somoza family, which had then been in power for only seven years, is believed to have sent weapons to Jewish guerrillas in Palestine in the early years of the Second World War, shipping them to the Middle East aboard a vessel flying the Nicaraguan flag.

Israel's first military support for the Somoza family's successors - the Contras of Nicaragua, who have been funded by the Americans - started in 1983 when hundreds of second-hand weapons were sent to the guerrillas to use against Sandinista Government troops.

The shipment from Israel included 2,000 Kalashnikov AK 47 automatic rifles and hundreds of RPG 7 anti-tank rockets which the Israelis had captured from the PLO during their invasion of Lebanon in 1982. The PLO supported the

Sandinista guerrillas before and after they toppled the Somoza dictatorship in 1979.

Palestinian guerrillas helped to train the Sandinista National Liberation Front before the civil war and several Nicaraguans loyal to the revolutionary government visited the PLO in Beirut before the Israeli invasion. The Sandinistas are always invited to Palestinian international congresses and the Iranians have established warm relations with the Ortega Government.

Arab leaders have for months known of intelligence reports that the Iranians have sent a small and symbolic shipment of American rifles to Ortega's army, thus enabling anti-American troops to fight with US weapons against pro-American guerrillas armed with PLO guns.

Jerusalem: Arms dealers in Israel exploited the fact that American equipment was being channelled through Israel to Iran to make secret sales of their own, according to informed sources here (Ian Murray writes).

The Israeli Government, aware of the deals sanctioned by Washington, turned a blind eye to the private deals in the hope that they would help to improve relations with Iran and lead to the release of Israeli soldiers believed to be held by the Syrian-backed Amal militia or the Iranian-backed Hezbollah (Party of God).

Israel, Lebanon join PLO battles

Sidon - Lebanese Army soldiers and the Israeli Air Force were unexpectedly dragged yesterday into the four-day battle between Shia Muslim Amal militia and Palestinian guerrillas in south Lebanon (Juan Carlos Gumacio writes).

Hours after Lebanese soldiers supported by tanks joined Amal forces in an attempt to recapture the strategic hilltop village of Magdeche, Israeli aircraft bombed Palestinian guerrilla positions in the middle of the battlefield.

The raid was Israel's 17th air strike against Palestinian targets in Lebanon this year. Witnesses said several Phantom jets rocketed three PLO artillery positions amid barrages of anti-aircraft fire and shoulder-fired missiles.

"There's no doubt, now the Israelis are now helping Amal," a young guerrilla of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine said.

Justice Malcolm Lucas, aged 59, a former law partner of the Governor, has promised to try to "head some of the wounds" inflicted on the court during this year's bitter election campaigns, which resulted in California voters ousting Judge Bird and two of her associates, Justices Cruz Reynoso and Joseph Grodin.

Los Angeles - Mr George Deukmejian, the Governor of California, has named a conservative to replace Chief Justice Rose Bird, the most liberal member of the state's High Court, who is to step down on January 1 (Ivor Davis writes).

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The countries have not yet agreed details, but the instructors, probably based in Kampala, are more likely to train instructors than the rank and file.

The last members of a British military training team left Uganda last weekend with the expiry of a six-month agreement.

Nairobi (Reuters) - Uganda and Britain have agreed in principle that British police instructors will return to Uganda to train the police force for the first time since the former President Milton Obote was deposed last year, officials at the British High Commission in Kampala said yesterday.

The countries have not yet agreed details, but the instructors, probably based in Kampala, are more likely to train instructors than the rank and file.

The last members of a British military training team left Uganda last weekend with the expiry of a six-month agreement.

Mr Dabengwa, which has the loyalty of the Ndebele-speaking minority in western Zimbabwe, have been lacking toward an agreement that promises to end rivalries and to bring about a *de facto* one-party state in Zimbabwe.

Mr Dabengwa's shadowy but revered figure who directed the Zupa military effort in the liberation war, has been in detention since early 1982.

Washington - Ching God, personal beliefs and the spirit of Thanksgiving Day, the outgoing Governor of New Mexico, Mr Tony Anaya, yesterday reserved fire men on Death Row (Christopher Thomas writes).

It was the first mass reprieve in the US since 1970. Mr Anaya, a Democrat, was defeated in the November election by Mr Garrey Carruthers, who had campaigned heavily on the law and order issue and is furious at the act of clemency. He intends to challenge its legality.

New York - The United States Internal Revenue Service wants John McEnroe, the tennis star, to pay more than \$900,000 (\$630,000) in back taxes, but McEnroe's lawyer says the IRS has incorrect information (AP reports).

The IRS contends that McEnroe, aged 27, took improper deductions on his 1982 tax returns amounting to \$906,291. But his lawyer said McEnroe filed a petition this month to overturn the ruling. A three-year statute of limitations has passed without IRS conducting an audit.

Dubai (Reuters) - The fifth-seeded US team held a clear lead yesterday after 10 rounds of play in the Dubai chess Olympiad, with the Soviet Union, England and Spain jointly holding second place on 27 points, one behind.

Yasser Seirawan, the US Grandmaster, was an adjourned game from the ninth round over Hungary's Lajos Portisch to the US 3-1 win over the third-seeded Hungarians, and the Soviet Union edged past Romania after a draw was agreed between the world champion, Gary Kasparov, and the Romanian grandmaster, Mihail Suba.

Kasparov said that allegations by the English team that the Russians had added Spain in their crushing 3½-½ upset of England were "ridiculous and insulting". The appeal of the English captain, David Anderson, has made no progress.

Washington: The United States will strongly welcome the new measures and restrictions in relations with Syria announced in Bonn (Michael Binyon writes).

The West German measures, though short of a break in diplomatic relations, are the kind of steps Washington has been urging on its allies.

There would be no new West German development aid for Syria, he added, and Syrian passes for non-diplomatic personnel at the Embassy in Bonn would no longer be recognized.

Nezar Hindawi, who was sentenced in London last month to 45 years in jail for attempting to blow up an El Al jumbo jet, had a service pass from the Syrian Embassy in London.

Herr Ost said that the German Government would raise the question of the involvement of Syrian "authorities" in East Berlin in the bomb attack in talks with the East German Government.

West Germany's moves against Syria came only 24 hours after a West Berlin court convicted two Jordanians, one of them a brother of Hindawi, of bombing a German-Arab society's centre in the city on March 29 and injuring nine people.

Western military governments in West Berlin said later that they were banning "certain Syrian citizens" from their sectors of the divided city. This means that Syrians living in East Berlin will not be able to cross into West Berlin. A US military spokesman said that the order was taking effect immediately.

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There would be no new West German development aid for Syria, he added, and Syrian passes for non-diplomatic personnel at the Embassy in Bonn would no longer be recognized.

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Three freed but 19 face trial in Transvaal treason test for ANC

From Michael Hornsby, Delmas, Transvaal

Three out of 22 black men charged with treason and murder were acquitted on all counts in the Magistrates' Court of this small farming town yesterday, but the rest were told by the judge, Mr Justice Kees Van Dijkhorst, that they had a prima-facie case to answer.

Judge Dijkhorst for the first time granted a defence request for release on bail, but only for six of the accused. The remainder, who have already been in detention for periods ranging from 18 months to two years, will spend their second successive Christmas behind bars.

Those released must each put up bail of 15,000 rand (£4,700), must not attend any gathering, must report twice a day to a police station, and must not enter five black townships in the Vaal River area south of Johannesburg, even though all but one of them have their homes there.

The trial, the biggest mass treason trial in 30 years, is seen as crucial for the future of the United Democratic Front (UDF), the loose alliance of hundreds of grass-roots anti-apartheid organizations which has developed into the most potent above-ground opposition to the Government.

Of the remaining 19 accused, 15 are members of the UDF or affiliates, three are members of the black consciousness-oriented Azanian People's Organization (Azapo), and one has no political affiliation. The UDF accused include three of its leading figures, Mr Popo Molefe, Mr Patrick Lekota and Mr Moses Chikane.

Preliminary court appearances took place as long ago as June last year, but the trial proper began only on January 20, when all the accused pleaded not guilty. Lawyers involved in the case think the trial could well continue for another year at least.

Judge Dijkhorst's ruling came in response to a submission by the defence led by Mr George Bizos, the seasoned civil rights advocate, that the state had failed to produce any credible evidence to support its charges and that all the accused should be set free.

While the judge agreed that three minor figures, Mr Simon Vilakazi, Mr Lazarus More and Mr Amos Malindi, all in their twenties, had no case to answer, he found there was prima-facie evidence of a conspiracy to commit treason and murder on the part of the other accused.

The case arises out of the riots, sparked by protests over rent increases, which erupted in Sharpeville and other black townships along the Vaal in September 1984, setting off a nationwide chain-reaction of violence which has so far taken more than 2,000 lives.

Judge Dijkhorst argued that a reasonable man might find that the evidence supported the view that the UDF had been involved in a conspiracy, and that it would "not be fanciful" to infer that one goal had been the destruction of local government bodies in the Vaal townships.

As to the charge of murder, Judge Dijkhorst said that the accused must have been aware that threats against township councillors (several of whom were killed in the early days of the violence) might incite mobs to attack them.

It followed, if it was accepted that there was a prima-facie case to answer on the other charges, that in general terms the aims of the outlawed African National Congress (ANC) might be said to have been furthered, the judge declared.

The state has had little success in substantiating its claim that the UDF is a front for the ANC, and that, it is guilty of fostering a revolutionary climate.



Black envoy to apartheid regime: Mr Edward Perkins, the first black American Ambassador to Pretoria, arriving to present his credentials to President Botha yesterday.

EEC budget compromise

Soaring cost of farm policy may cause crisis next year

From Richard Owen, Brussels

EEC officials have given a warning that the EEC 1987 budget compromise hammered out early on Wednesday by budget ministers is only a short-term solution and is storing up trouble for the future, particularly over "disastrously" soaring farm costs.

The crisis is now likely to come to a head under the Belgian presidency of the EEC in the first half of next year rather than under the British presidency, which ends on December 31.

But Mrs Thatcher will be under pressure at the London EEC summit meeting next Friday to ease the pain of succeeding presidencies by at least laying the groundwork for overdue reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

The EEC budget ministers acknowledged that the European Parliament had sent them an unusually unanimous political message from Strasbourg on the urgent need to cut farm spending, which accounts for two-thirds of the budget and is veering out of control.

Until recently the Parliament tended to support the farm lobby. But the ministers rejected Parliament's proposal for a special fund of nearly £2 billion for the disposal of surplus stocks.

Mr Peter Brooke, Minister of State at the Treasury and president of the Budget Council, told a European Parliament delegation led by M. Pierre Pflimlin, the Parliament's president, that EEC governments would not pay the extra contributions.

"It means the Community's financial crisis, when it comes, will be that much worse", one

The European Commission is to hold talks soon with Britain about the 150-mile restricted fishing zone around the Falkland Islands (Reuter reports from Brussels). Spain, which has traditional links with Argentina, has refused to recognize the zone.

Commission official said. Much would depend on the agriculture ministers' final meeting for this year on December 8 and 9, and on the EEC London summit meeting which precedes it.

The European Parliament, which gives the 1987 budget its second and final reading in Strasbourg next month, is critical of the budget ministers' evasion of how to deal with the soaring costs of storage and disposal of food surpluses.

During the past six months Mr Brooke has acquired a reputation for emerging fresh at

dawn with a compromise after all-night talks. The 1987 draft budget of £26.5 billion which he announced on Wednesday enables Britain to claim that an EEC budget has been set which is more or less in line with the Commission's preliminary budget. But it uses up all available resources and is bound to collapse as costs rise next year.

To compound the problem, the budget ministers failed to agree on how to make good the estimated shortfall of £1 billion in this year's budget.

The 1986 budget was ingeniously stitched together by Mr Brooke in July when Britain took over the chair from The Netherlands. But since then the fall in the dollar, rising farm costs and reduced tariff revenues have blown a hole in Mr Brooke's achievement and ministers were unable to agree on Wednesday on where to make savings to keep the 1986 books balanced.

As a result the 1986 over-spending is carried forward to 1987, further aggravating next year's looming crisis.

Mr Brooke told M. Pflimlin that Parliament's demand for a surplus disposal fund and for radical cuts in milk quotas could be considered by EEC farm ministers only after the London summit.

Spectrum, page 14

Pretoria revises camp raid report

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

The Bureau for Information, South Africa's sole source of official news about events covered by the state of emergency laws, did an about-face yesterday over its account of the demolition of a squatter camp in Soweto.

It said on Wednesday that residents of Mofolo North, part of the huge Soweto complex outside Johannesburg, had taken it upon themselves to demolish shacks in the Mshengville squatter camp.

Police were called in, the bureau said, after squatters attacked them with petrol bombs. The police fired back with tear gas, according to the official account.

Yesterday the bureau said that the shacks were "demolished on the instruction of the Soweto Housing Council". The Star, a Johannesburg newspaper, reported that build-

dozers ploughed through more than 100 shacks and that they were demolished in the presence of police and troops.

Mofolo residents, the newspaper claimed, helped the squatters to gather what was left of their shacks and belongings and that tear gas was thrown at groups of squatters weeping over their demolished shelters. A torrential thunderstorm erupted as residents tried to accommodate them.

Meanwhile the so-called Mayor of the Soweto Council, a body spawned by the majority of residents, said that he would resign. Mr Ephraim Tshabalala said that the demolition of the shacks was carried out without warning.

In the black township of Guguletu, outside Cape Town, two white policemen were badly injured yesterday in a hand grenade attack.

Basque general election

Breakaway leader aims to poach PNV seats

From Richard Wigg, Vitoria

Señor Carlos Garaicoechea is after the widest possible Basque nationalist vote so he holds one of the biggest meetings of his campaign for Sunday's Basque general election in a municipal five court in the capital of Spain's troubled north. Fives is the Basque national sport.

Outside, however, handbills signed by the Basque Nationalist Party (PNV), which he once led, warn voters against the former Chief Minister: "Don't vote again for someone who has changed his mind so many times just for a job".

Señor Garaicoechea symbolizes the morass into which the almost 100-year-old PNV

absolute majority raises the likelihood of the smaller parties helping form a coalition government after the election. Señor Garaicoechea has said he could not rejoin his former colleagues, but has not ruled out teaming up with the Socialists. If the PNV should itself form a coalition with the Socialists, he could look forward to becoming the principal Basque nationalist figure in the Opposition.

A second party, seeking a pivotal role is the Basque Left (EE) led by Señor Juan María Bandres, a Basque member of the Madrid Parliament.

In Opposition in the Basque Parliament, his party has provided the best-argued critique of what has gone wrong with Basque home rule, blaming chiefly the sectarian intolerance and the failure of society to stand up to ETA's blackmail.

The party is strong among urban professionals, but is too intellectual for the rural areas where the "classic" nationalist formula of "all against Madrid" is a powerful rallying cry.

Señor Bandres, a potential ally for the Socialists and one who is also offering himself as a Basque chief minister, has forced Señor Jose Ardanza, the outgoing chief executive, to admit that his Government "blackened" the extent of the Basque economic decline in Brussels to obtain more EEC funds, while telling voters that things were improving on the economic front.

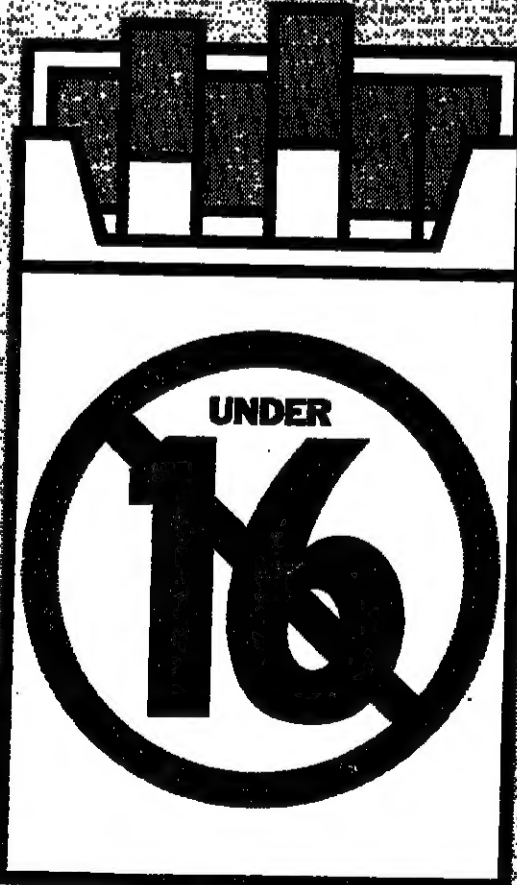
Señor Adolfo Suárez, the former Spanish Prime Minister who helped set up Basque home rule, is hoping that his Democratic Centre Party (CDS) will capture the pivotal role. But unlike Señor Bandres, his party is offering to help the PNV against the Socialists.

In an interview in Egin, the Basque extreme left-wing nationalist daily, "Txomin" Iurbe, the best known leader of ETA's military wing, has told its sympathizers to vote for the People's Unity Coalition.

The interview, given in Algeria, was the first proof of Madrid's suspicions that the terrorist, expelled from France last July, is in North Africa. "Txomin" insisted that time was on the side of the radical independence formula and that ETA would continue to make the "Spanish forces of repression" its target.

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The MI5 book case: steps in a 'danse macabre'

Judge loses patience with UK

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

The judge in the MI5 spy book case served notice on the British Government in unequivocal terms yesterday that he has run out of patience with what he regards as legal manoeuvres designed to block production of confidential papers.

In a series of broadsides at Whitehall, Mr Justice Powell said that in applying for an injunction to suppress a book by Mr Peter Wright, the Thatcher administration had sought to avail itself of the jurisdiction of the Australian courts but was evidently unwilling to accept a ruling unless it was favourable.

That was an attitude which he said could countenance, he said.

The upshot of yesterday's proceedings is that the British Government must say this morning whether it will bow to Mr Justice Powell's demand that he be allowed a private inspection of the papers. If it does not, it must seek leave to appeal, having already failed once in a similar application.

If there is no appeal, Mr Justice Powell will look at the papers and then rule on whether he accepts the British contention that they are so secret as to be immune from the normal considerations of public interest and should therefore not be shown Mr Wright's counsel, Mr Malcolm Turnbull.

Either way, the judge said yesterday that Whitehall's practical manoeuvres had become a "danse macabre" which had placed him in "an intolerable situation," and threatened "the gravest injustice" to Mr Wright and to the Heinemann Publishing Company of Australia, which wants to publish his book.

Mr Justice Powell's criticism stemmed from yet another change of British position revealed yesterday.

On Wednesday Mr Theo Simos, QC, indicated that the Government would accept an order by the judge if he insisted on seeing the papers — which deal with why no official action was taken to restrain recent books on MI5 and MI6. The British position then was that it would want to appeal only if the judge ruled that the papers should be shown to Mr Turnbull.

However, when the court reconvened yesterday, Mr Simos said that his instructions had changed, and that the Government might seek

leave to appeal if the judge insisted on seeing the papers. Mr Justice Powell replied: "I hope you will forgive me if I appear to show a degree of pique, Mr Simos, but yours is the only head above the sandbags at the moment."

● I don't know from one day to the next what the British Government says ●
Mr Justice Powell

leave to appeal if the judge insisted on seeing the papers.

Mr Justice Powell replied: "I hope you will forgive me if I appear to show a degree of pique, Mr Simos, but yours is the only head above the sandbags at the moment."

"I regret to say that I am placed in an intolerable situation. I am quite unable to predict from one day to the next what is the attitude of the plaintiff in this case, what submissions will be persevered with, and what course is to be taken."

"The situation I am placed in is, I believe, intolerable, and, more to the point, since I am paid to be here, if this is to be a continuing pattern, the defendants are to be placed in an intolerable situation, and one in which I feel they would be subject to grave injustice."

The judge remarked that he had already delivered the opinion three times that the papers should be handed up. Only once had the Government tested that opinion before the Court of Appeal, and then unsuccessfully.

"I'm not joking when I say I don't know from one day to the next what the British Government says. It is merely another manifestation of what appears to me an attitude of the Government — namely that it is going to lay down the issues and ground rules."

Mr Turnbull, arguing the case against the British claim that the papers were subject to public-interest immunity, said that even from a bare affidavit which lists the documents it was evident that three of them were "whales in the bay".

One of the papers was relevant to the defence case that Chapman Pincher's book, *The Trade Is Treachery*, was published with official approval. Mr Turnbull said, and was sufficient to cast "enormous doubt" on the evidence of Sir Robert Armstrong, the Cabinet Secretary.

Without describing the document, Mr Turnbull drew attention to the date.

"That document was created... at least two months before Sir Robert said the Government knew of the book. The sending organization is the one Sir Robert has difficulty identifying (MI6). Look at what was enclosed with that letter. What can that be but... I won't say."

The Government had resolutely denied any involvement in publication, and it was not hard to see why, Mr Turnbull said. It would be a mockery if it were shown that it was doing secretly under the counter what it would not allow over the counter.



Mr Peter Wright, author of the book, strolling with his wife in Sydney's Hyde Park after attending the Sydney court.

Kremlin to insist on apology for Kohl gaffe

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The diplomatic argument between Moscow and Bonn over recent remarks by the Chancellor, Herr Helmut Kohl, intensified further yesterday with the publication in *Pravda* of one of the most bitterly worded attacks on a Western leader.

The unsigned editorial, entitled "A Dangerous Throwback", described Herr Kohl's recent comparison in a *Newweek* interview of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev to Joseph Goebbels, the Nazi propagandist, as amazingly irresponsible.

The Communist Party paper continued: "In Bonn, they must always remember the pain, anger and disgust Soviet people feel in their hearts on hearing monstrous, shameful comparisons between our country and Nazi Germany. A heavy pall has been cast over Soviet-German relations and they have been poisoned, and that at a time when they had begun to acquire a new dynamism."

The attack, sanctioned at a high level in the Kremlin, followed less than 24 hours after Moscow's latest cancellation of an official contact with Bonn, this time by Mr Vladimir Tikhonov, the deputy Marine Minister, who gave no reason for scrapping his planned trip to sign agreements on river and sea navigation.

According to informed Soviet sources, the Kremlin is anxious to secure a full and formal apology from the German Chancellor, and is expected to keep up the diplomatic freeze. "There is no doubt of the bitterness felt here on this very sensitive issue", one West European diplomat observed.

Guns fall silent at last in Manila's communist battle

From David Watts, Manila

The guns will fall silent next month in the Philippines' 17-year-old guerrilla war against communist insurgents.

Two historic agreements signed yesterday open the way for what Filipinos hope will be an end of the struggle that has taken 2,000 lives since President Aquino came to power in February.

But even as representatives of the Government and of the National Democratic Front (NDF) were embracing in celebration, government forces were involved in what was reported to be a "massive" military operation against insurgents in Anzora province, 30 miles north of Manila.

Eleven government and communist troops were killed in fighting before the signing of the agreements, and a communist radio network headquarters responsible for the control of New People's Army fighters in central Luzon was also overrun after a 30-minute gun battle. The ceasefire itself does not become effective until December 10.

Many military officers remain cautious about the advisability of the ceasefire, but one senior western military attaché said that it could have some chance of success in the long term only if the Government finds the necessary political will to make social and economic improvements and to reform corrupt Philippine constabulary to better the lot of Filipinos in the regions.

The two agreements cover the safety and the immunity of negotiators for the NDF, who will begin discussion of a comprehensive peace agreement 30 days after the 60-day ceasefire takes effect.

The Government is also open talks with the Muslim Liberation Movement, which is active in the southern Philippines.

The negotiations are to open in Saudi Arabia early next year.

After signing the agreements in front of hundreds of journalists, Mr Ramon Mitra, a leading government negotiator, said that opening peace negotiations with the NDF had been one of the most urgent priorities for Mrs Aquino's new Government, and that the signing of the documents four months after talks opened had been a "no

little political cost to her fledgling government". But he warned that the substantive negotiations would be even more difficult.

The immunity agreement guarantees that NDF negotiators will be free from surveillance during the negotiations in Manila and will have irrevocable immunity from search, arrest and prosecution.

The memorandum on the ceasefire defines the hostile acts that shall cease during its 60-day term. These include all conventional means of waging warfare, torture, disarming of NFA fighters and search, as well as coercion and threats.

In a clear hint of the threats to the agreement posed not only by some elements in the Army and police but also by private militias such as that of the former defence minister, Mr Juan Ponce Enrile, the Government pledges itself to disarm and prosecute armed groups, "goons" and death squads who try to disrupt it.

In an extraordinary agreement, both the Government and the NDF have promised jointly to protect their part from such outside interference.

Mr Mitra revealed that the actual site of the signing and press conference was being protected by both the communists and the Government.

A special committee to oversee the ceasefire will be set up. It will be responsible for any breaches and for apportioning blame. But both government and NDF representatives affirmed that neither side had any interest in violating it.



Mr Ramon Mitra: jubilation over ceasefire agreement.

Rome tests motorists' restraint

From Peter Nicholas, Rome

Rome is facing its severest test of civic maturity today, when motorists in the city's historic centre will not only be required to obey the rules — in itself a revolution for Rome — but also to make the sacrifice, where possible, of voluntarily doing without their cars for the day.

The idea of 24 hours with a minimum of private cars on the road came originally from the trade unions. It followed warnings that the level of pollution due to constant traffic jams in the city centre had reached alarming levels.

The judiciary, too, threatened to intervene. If these threats seemed exaggerated at the time, there can be no mistake now that the moment has arrived for urgent action.

The problem of traffic in the centre of Rome has been growing for years, but in the past few months a change in quality has occurred calling for emergency action.

The step taken by the unions won quick support from the municipal government. In view of the importance of the city authorities, whether Communist or Christian Democrat, to prevent the city centre's degeneration over the years, the support of public opinion for the unions' initiative was particularly important.

As a result, today will see a dress rehearsal for what could be a rational start to a remedy for the problems of the city centre. Unions and the city administration have agreed on a series of one-day "innovations".

There will be 130 extra buses on the city streets; schools will start an hour later, to avoid the rush hour; rubbish will be cleared during the night; 3,000 police will be on duty from 6.30 am; roadworks will be stopped; local railway services will be improved; and routes through the city centre will be limited to buses and taxis.

The only private cars allowed to enter will be those with up-to-date permits. And, as a special gesture, taxi drivers will be free to work when they wish instead of being bound by shifts.

"These are the steps which could take us," according to Signor Giulio Carlo Argan, the art historian and former Mayor of Rome, "from the Inferno to Paradise."

Today's experiment should give the politicians some ideas on how to solve the city centre's problems.

Gibraltar anti-drug curfew

Gibraltar — In an attempt to cut drug and tobacco smuggling between Morocco and Spain, the British colony is to impose a curfew for high-powered launches starting on New Year's Day (Dominique Searle writes).

Applicants for boat licences will require a clean record and launches will be forbidden from using Gibraltar waters after dark.

Court killings

Bangkok (Reuters) — A suspected murderer, Soungol Pansida, aged 30, shot his wife, Thipavana, with a pistol he handed him and seriously wounded his father before shooting himself dead in a courtroom.

Gold digger

Dhaka (Reuters) — An Australian, Darren Chambers, and two Thais, Ho Dornadee Panjart and Mrs Banjita Sen, have been sentenced to life imprisonment after having smuggled gold worth \$40,000 (£28,000) into Bangladesh.

Killer fire

Paris (Reuters) — Four children were among six people, mainly immigrants, who died in a fire that swept through a building in an impoverished area of eastern Paris, according to firemen.

Bomb charge

Sydney (Reuters) — Levon Demirian, aged 34, an Armenian restaurateur, has been charged with planning the car-bomb explosion which killed the suspected bomber and damaged the Turkish consulate in Melbourne on Sunday.

Aided escape

Oslo — Norwegian police recaptured an unnamed drug-addict burglar who broke out of Gjøvik jail here by threatening prison wardens with a syringe full of his own Aids-infected blood.

Death plunge

Oviedo, Spain (Reuters) — Two miners fell 150 ft to their deaths after a pulley controlling the descent of their lift cage snapped at the state-owned Hunosa coalmine.

Peking poser

Peking (Reuters) — China's main newspaper, the *People's Daily*, accused organizers of a bodybuilding contest of trying to cash in on a recently approved parade of bikini-clad women.

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THE ARTS 1

Sweet sound of a bebop swansong



An American jazzman in Paris: Dexter Gordon in 'Round Midnight

Perhaps it is not surprising that a Frenchman should make one of the best tributes to American jazz in the bebop Fifties — the era in which 'Round Midnight is set — many great American jazz players went to Paris, delighted and amazed to find themselves revered as artists, rather than being taken for granted as ethnic showbiz, which is what tended to happen at home.

Bernard Tavernier's film is the fictional portrait of one such musician — in part a composite of Lester Young and Bud Powell (to both of whom it is dedicated), as John Preston pointed out in his interview with Tavernier earlier this week, as well as the saxophonist Dexter Gordon, who plays the leading role.

At the start of the film, in 1959, the protagonist is in New York, defeated and alcoholic. He returns after 15 years to Paris, where he is befriended by a long-time French fan, whose own life is in some disorder.

The two enter upon a curious mutual dependency, with the old musician good-humouredly accepting the nurse-maiding of the younger Frenchman, and responding by temporarily kicking drink and returning to composing. Eventually the Frenchman accompanies the musician to New York, where his protective sensitivity is contrasted, in some dry

comic scenes, with an American counterpart — a brash local promoter, played by the director Martin Scorsese.

Tavernier's romantic fascination with the world of jazzmen is reflected in Alexander Trauner's sets (the film was mostly shot in the studio); the crooked Parisian streets, familiar bars, and seedy hotel rooms lit by the inevitable lurid neon from the street outside.

Loosely but elegantly structured, moodily shot by Bruno de Keyser, and with well integrated supporting performances, this swan-song story is inevitably dominated by the central figure of Dexter Gordon. Tavernier, whose music is rather than an actor for the role because he recalled his disappointment with Robert De Niro's patently unmusical performance in Scorsese's *New York, New York*.

Even when he is not actually playing his virtuoso sax, Gordon is still every inch the musician: we believe his comments, sometimes wry, sometimes poetic, on his art, as well as his wistful declaration (actually a quotation from Bud Powell), "I am tired of everything, except music."

The character is seemingly not much different from the real-life Gordon, and Tavernier encouraged him to improvise his

CINEMA

'Round Midnight

(15)
Lumiere, Gate Notting Hill, Screen-on-the-Hill

Crossover Dreams (uncertified)

ICA Cinema

Les Princes (15)

Phoenix East Finchley

dialogue wherever possible. He is tall and lean and majestic. Despite legs that appear somewhat beyond his control.

His eyes rarely settle on the person to whom he is talking, but focus vaguely, anxiously on the middle distance. His statements come slowly and reluctantly, in a throaty croak that speaks of decades of abuse; but when they come they are vivid and pregnant, and accompanied by strange, eloquent gestures of his big graceful hands. He is one of the most memorable, eccentric and charismatic characters lately seen on the screen.

Crossover Dreams, directed by a Cuban emigrant, Leon Ichaso, is also about a musician — a New York Puerto Rican salsa singer struggling to break out of the Latin club circuit into mainstream American pop music. The saga of his rise and fall is the time-honoured stuff of musical melodrama: suddenly launched into the big time, our hero recklessly abandons old friends, fiancée and discretion, to go for a fast life of big cars, flash clothes and orgies in the jazz club. When the limelight fades, he finds himself alone, abandoned and shabby in the ultimate fall to the desperation of drug-running by a shamelessly sentimental dénouement.

Ichaso quite successfully disguises the essential corn in a modern idiom, the kind of casual, off-the-cuff style that distinguishes the New York independent film from its West Coast counterpart. The most serious challenge to belief is that Ruben Blades, a prominent salsa singer and composer, who plays the lead, is far too good and assured a performer to be vulnerable to this kind of defeat.

Tony Gatilif, a tough-looking man around 40, was born and raised as a gypsy in Algeria, and claims to have lived by thieving before tumbling enthusiastically into theatre and film. His second

feature, *Les Princes*, which won the 1983 European Film Prize, is one of the cinema's most convincing impressions of the character and lives of urban gypsies.

Nara, the feckless, unappealing hero, lives with his ancient mother and daughter in a squat on the *terrains vagues* of a French city. Their lives are inconsequential and violent, coloured by the permanent contradiction between the traditional tribal dominance of the men and the toughness and superior wisdom of the women of the group.

While Nara lurches from brawl to brawl, and bizarre negotiations with the brothers of his callously cast-off wife, his daughter passes on to her old granny the lessons she has learned in school. When they are violently evicted from the squat, it is granny who leads them off on an abortive protest to demand their basic human rights.

Gerard Darmon plays Nara with a convincing blend of ferocity, guile and stubborn stupidity, and lucidly expresses the moral pride of the race when he protests, "We do not beg — we take."

But in the end the picture is stolen by Muse Galabry, an Algerian classical actress and author, as the stalwart old granny, striding around with her great skirts and broly.

David Robinson

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Jacks of all musical trades

ROCK

Simply Red Hammersmith Odeon

By gathering virtually the whole gamut of traditional black music styles into one smart pop package, the group which formed in Manchester in 1985 have come up with a product as popular as sliced bread, and of about the same anodyne texture when compared to the wholesome source of their inspiration.

In performance, their strongest card was Mick Hucknall's distinctive white soul voice, and it was clear from the lack of interaction between the band members and the way that the stage was lit that he was the star of the show, despite the long tuft of hair which made him look like Bobby Charlton caught in a high wind.

But although he sang forcefully, and with particular grace during Talking Heads' "Heaven", there was a lack of

emotional resonance in most of the material. Similarly, the band failed to give adequate purchase or impose its own personality on the over-the-top range of styles, which included the jazz swing of "Sad Old Man", the heavy funk of "No Direction", the gospel touches in "The Right Whole", the soul-slashed disco sound of "Red Box", and the sluggish reggae of "Picture Book". Such a cavalier approach to idioms, any one of which would take most artists a lifetime to master, resulted in an inevitably superficial if pleasant entertainment.

The look of unconcealed relief on the bassist Tony Bowers' face after the band had successfully negotiated a long free-time break near the end of "Heaven" illustrated a lack of experience which was emphasized by their aspirations to musical sophistication, and it may be a little early to judge them too harshly. If nothing else "Hold Back The Years" made them the first band in my experience to induce couples to wait romantically in the Odeon's aisles.

David Sinclair

ENTERTAINMENTS

CONCERTS

BARCLAY HALL 8.30-9.30
Tues. 11.30-12.30
Weds. 1.30-2.30
Thurs. 3.30-4.30
Fri. 5.30-6.30
Sat. 7.30-8.30
Sun. 9.30-10.30
Tues. 11.30-12.30
Weds. 1.30-2.30
Thurs. 3.30-4.30
Fri. 5.30-6.30
Sat. 7.30-8.30
Sun. 9.30-10.30

THEATRES

ALPHABET 8.30-9.30
Tues. 11.30-12.30
Weds. 1.30-2.30
Thurs. 3.30-4.30
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APOLLO THEATRE 8.30-9.30
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SPECTRUM

Can wheat fields be turned into woods?



Part 5: A fallow future for Europe?

is wide disagreement, however, about the remedy. Should subsidies be reduced? Should farmers, as Mrs Thatcher believes, be paid to take land out of production — or turn it, perhaps, into forestry? Concluding our series, we look at the answers on offer

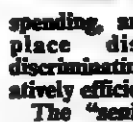
Everyone now agrees that the Common Agricultural Policy is a sick animal. By subsidizing wheat, beef and milk that no one wants, it is heading towards bankruptcy. There



THE POLITICIANS



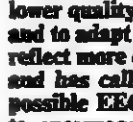
For the Conservatives, Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, has been advocating a package of measures to reduce surpluses, control



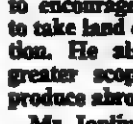
spending, and introduce market place discipline without discriminating against the relatively efficient British farmer.



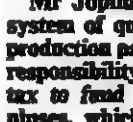
The "senior partner" in this package would be a tough price policy, with cuts rather than mere freezes in commodity support prices. Mr Jopling broadly supports EEC proposals to support lower quality grain at lower prices and to adapt intervention prices to reflect more closely market needs, and has called for studies into a possible EEC "set-aside" scheme to encourage marginal producers to take land out of cereal production. He also believes there is greater scope for marketing of produce abroad.



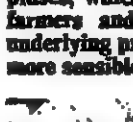
Mr Jopling is opposed to any system of quotas, which "distorts" production patterns, and to the co-responsibility levy, a Europe-wide tax to fund the disposal of surpluses, which is hard on British farmers and "irrelevant to the underlying problem of achieving a more sensible market balance".



Roy Jenkins, former SDP leader and the only Briton to have headed the European Commission, fears today that if its members do not take concerted action to reform the CAP, states will begin to impose their own separate solutions, threatening the very survival of the Community.



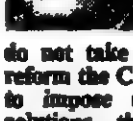
"If the Common Market in agriculture broke up, some people wonder whether the industrial market could survive," he says. "The system of taking land out of cultivation may well be the sensible way to go, but I'm not absolutely clear how it's going to avoid all the difficulties associated with production quotas, or with a



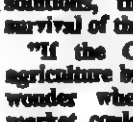
freeze in prices — or even a reduction."



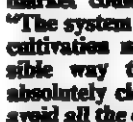
He does not despair, however, believing that political self-preservation is likely to force EEC members to take concerted action before long.



The Alliance's official policy would be to underwrite family farm incomes through price support for pre-set quantities of production, but extra production would be sold at market prices.



This, it claims, would protect small farmers while limiting the cost of CAP support and reducing surpluses. Each country would be given production quantities for each commodity, but governments would be able to distribute allocations as they saw fit.



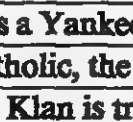
The Alliance would review the system of intervention buying, but believes in the need to maintain a floor for commodity prices.



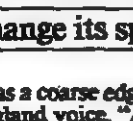
The Labour Party has no official policy on the CAP, but its agriculture spokesman, Brynmor Jones, said last month that "there is no miracle cure. A combination of measures will be needed, even where one plays the central role."



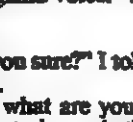
That central measure would be the introduction of national quotas for all major agricultural commodities, with detailed implementation of those quotas within each country left to the national governments to decide.



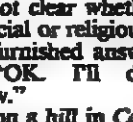
Production, he said, needs to be curtailed "to an amount which represents the level of consumption plus a small safety margin".



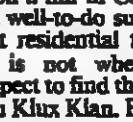
Mr John is opposed to restraint through the price mechanism — which he fears would merely drive up subsidies to co-responsibility levies to land "set-aside" — a "short-term palliative", and to a tax on nitrogen. He is in favour of a woodland scheme whereby the state would pay a farmer an annual income for each hectare on which trees were planted, and would receive a proportion of the proceeds when the trees were felled.



As EEC Commissioner for Agriculture, Frans Andriessen is perhaps the most important figure pressing for reform. "We should have adapted the CAP the moment we reached self-sufficiency," he says. "We can no longer continue to guarantee unlimited quantities. Intervention must return to its original role — as a safety net, not a standard outlet."



Among the reforms proposed by a Commission Green Paper a year ago are: a restrictive pricing policy; early retirement for farmers; assisting farmers in less favoured areas; compensating farmers who maintain the environment and set aside land; and afforestation of land formerly used for crops.

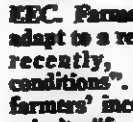


For the dairy sector the Commission has an emergency plan: discontinuing inter-regional

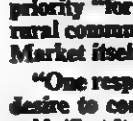
THE FARMERS



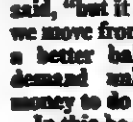
Sir Richard Butler, who runs a farm in Essex, is also head of Cops, the organization which represents European farmers throughout the EEC. Farmers were prepared to adapt to a reformed CAP, he said recently, but on "certain conditions". The maintenance of farmers' incomes remained a top priority "for the sake both of the rural community and the Common Market itself."



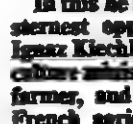
"One respects the commission's desire to contain the budget," he said, "but it is difficult to see how we move from where we are now to a better balance of supply and demand unless we have more money to do so."



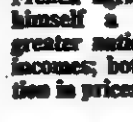
In this he agrees with two of the staunchest opponents of reform — Ignaz Kiechle, West German agriculture minister and a former dairy farmer, and Francois Guillaume, French agriculture minister, and himself a farmer. Both want greater national aid for farmers' incomes; both oppose any reduction in prices for farm products.



There are glimmers of a way out of this head-on clash between the Commission and the farmers. Sir Richard himself suggests alternative crops, or payment to farmers to take a role in nature conservation rather than productive farming, ideas the Commission has also proposed.



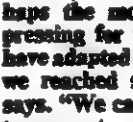
He also agrees that new technologies such as bio-ethanol and vegetable fibre production are feasible, provided they have "a sound economic base" — another code for maintained incomes.



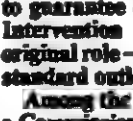
The British National Farmers' Union favours "set-aside" — incentives to farmers to keep land fallow but says it would have to apply across the board, and the land could not be used for growing other crops such as vegetables, which would simply cause a huge glut on the market.



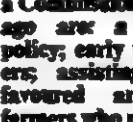
"Jopling's idea is that, if you let market forces take command, prices will fall automatically," says Ian Gardiner, director of the NFU's commodity policy co-ordination division. "I'm sure he's right, and that is precisely what we are afraid of. It would ruin tens of thousands of farmers."



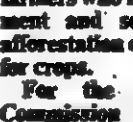
compensation in milk quotas; stopping milk powder intervention in winter; ending intervention purchases of butter; and the direct disposal of fresh butter, especially to the needy.



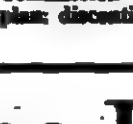
All this, Andriessen says, is part of a campaign and must be followed by more comprehensive measures. "Europe is not alone in the agricultural crisis. It is a world phenomenon. National farm policies and international trade must be co-ordinated."



"We can set aside land — we have already authorized subsidies in West Germany for an experiment to take land out of production. But if you make it compulsory you will meet enormous resistance and you run the risk of bureaucratizing agriculture even more. We risk curing the symptoms, not the disease."



The Commission's book value for the stocks is £8.5 billion (the cost of buying them into intervention), but the Commission admits that the stocks are probably resalable for far less, perhaps at half the book value.



Mr Price's investigations show that the real book value of the stocks is more like £2 billion. "If we are spending £2.8 billion to store stocks which are worth £2 billion, clearly anyone involved should be certified," Mr Price remarks.



"The EEC has never shown in its balance sheets the contingent liability of disposing of farm stocks," Mr Price says. "Any commercial firm would have to do so. A private company would be required to depreciate the value of stocks because they are assets. If you knowingly publish balance sheets which show certain assets at a certain value, when you know their true value is half or even less than half the value shown, then you are in trouble with the law."

THE COMMISSIONER

'If this was a firm it would be illegal'

The EEC has been accused of false accounting by Peter Price, the Conservative Euro spokesman on the budget, and Conservative MEP for London South-East. Mr Price, a lawyer who has investigated EEC finances in depth for the Court of Auditors and the European Parliament, says EEC officials are operating a system under which the Community spends far more on storage than the real value of the stocks being stored.

Mr Price believes the 1987 budget will overshoot by at least £2.2 billion. This, he argues, is because the Commission, when preparing its preliminary budget for next year, deliberately put in farm spending figures it knew were £1.3 billion short of the real total.

Two economic factors have made things even worse, Mr Price says: the dollar depreciation, which means lower prices in European currencies for EEC agricultural stocks sold on the world market; and the general downward trend in world prices.

Someone should be certified

He warns that the Commission and the Farm Ministers are quite capable of again resorting to a temporary expedient to get out of this situation by using "creative accounting".

According to the Commission, the EEC is spending some £2.8 billion on storage, as part of a package of farm support measures costing about £8.5 billion. "It is worth spending sums of this order on stocks which are worth less than the storage charges," Mr Price asks.

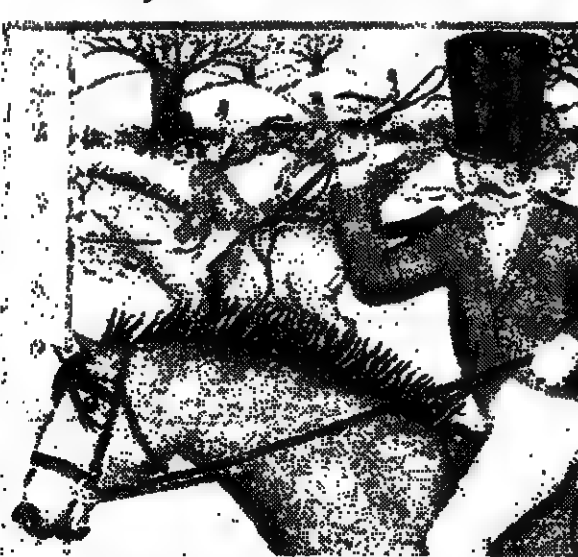
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SATURDAY

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Winter's tales

From marzipan pigs to Mowgli's periodic table... The Times guide to Christmas books offers amusement, entertainment and erudition from critics and authors. Bury your nose in the thriller section; light a fire with romance; or simply keep the children quiet with the longest book of the year — all six yards of it...

Pantomime show time
Guide to beauties and best beasts

Crowned heads of tragedy
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A new hat for the Klan

With a new chief who is a Yankee and a Catholic, the Klux Klan is trying to change its spots.

There was a coarse edge to the New England voice. "Are you a Jew?"

"No."

"Are you sure?" I told him I was sure.

"Well what are you then?" It was not clear whether this was a racial or religious question. I furnished answers for both.

"OK. I'll do the interview."

Eight on a hill in Connecticut, in a well-to-do suburb of the quiet residential town of Shelton is not where you might expect to find the leader of the Ku Klux Klan. But then James W. Farrands, recently sworn in as the new Imperial Wizard of the invisible empire of the Klan, is not predictable in every aspect.

For a start he is both the first Yankee and the first Roman Catholic to be elected to the top job in the white supremacist organization, historically dominated by southern protestants.

A heavy-set man in his early fifties with receding hair, Farrands has the hefty forearms one might expect of a tool-and-die machinist.

"Someone came from New York to interview me," he told me. "First thing he said was that he was a Jew and then he started to abuse me. It wasn't much of an interview. Sit down, make yourself comfortable. I'm gonna take off my shirt."

It was a comfortable middle-class American home, with deep plush armchairs and a huge television. Clearly the stock car racing business the Farrands family runs on the side is profitable.



James Farrands, Imperial Wizard: "A political programme"

"The thing about the blacks is that they're not as intelligent as we are. Dr Shockley proved that, you know, out in California. He has all the facts and figures. Perhaps it was the nigger that descended from the apes and the white man was made in the image of God."

"See here. I got a letter of support from someone in your National Front in England." He waved one of the papers from his bundle.

That was nice. "No it isn't, these people are crazy. They want us to get involved with direct action. These people are talking about throwing bombs and so on. We're not terrorists. We're a respectable political movement."

That was not exactly the image the Klan had in Britain, I told him.

"Well, there were things in the past, maybe. But nowadays if one of our members breaks the law we'll turn his ass in. We can't be a bona fide political party with that going on."

There are three divisions of the Ku Klux Klan in the United States: the Invisible Empire, the United Klans of America and the Knights of the KKK. During its last resurgence in the late Seventies the Invisible Empire was the largest, with around 4,000 members. It was described by the US Justice Department as the most violent, prone Klan in America. All this, Farrands

was adamant, had all changed. There were lots of changes, he said, and he would make more. "We don't have to go around burning and hanging people."

Klanwatch, a civil rights monitoring group based in Montgomery, Alabama, was not convinced. "That may be his official line but the type of people who are attracted to the Klan are volatile and hot-headed. He couldn't control them if he wanted to," said Klanwatch's director, Bill Stewart.

For all that he is not too worried about Farrands. "Most of the really dangerous people have left the Klan now and gone to neo-Nazi groups like The Order or the Aryan Nations Group. The Klan is pretty much a spent force. The United Klans, which is now the biggest, is largely made up of old carrying middle-aged men who joined in the Sixties."

Farrands, however, persists in his analysis that the Klan is merely changing. "We have a political programme now. There are some blacks who want to create a new Africa in the southern states. We support that. There's a lot to be said for apartheid, you know."

"On trade, we believe in protectionism. I can't stand it when those slimy little lap businessmen come around my factory. We believe in sterilizing all single-parent women after their second child. And, of course, we're against abortion."

The phone rang. It was a Canadian radio station wanting to know if he would take part in a phone-in. "Sure," he said. "I just won't answer if they want to be abusive." He put down the receiver. "You just can't trust some of these radio stations," he explained. "They're run by Jews." This, I decided, was where I came in.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1118

- ACROSS
- 1 Round stone (6)
 - 2 Bed cushion (6)
 - 3 Algerian navy centre (4)
 - 4 Missile front (6)
 - 5 Locally prevalent (7)
 - 6 Edge (5)
 - 7 Combat weariness (6,7)
 - 8 Minimum (5)
 - 9 Take air (7)
 - 10 Furniture beetle (8)
 - 11 Nursery rhyme collector (4)
 - 12 Roof beam (6)
 - 13 Spout (6)
- DOWN
- 1 Guiding saying (7)
 - 2 Plant (5)
 - 3 Bordeaux (5)
 - 4 Smart (4)
 - 5 Observing (7)
 - 6 Small-necked mollusc (5)
 - 7 Defraud (5)
 - 8 Swim (5)
 - 9 Rush away (4,3)
 - 10 Biblical interpreter (7)
 - 11 Further down (5)
 - 12 Vertical type (5)
 - 13 Gassy gemstone (5)
 - 14 Hard up (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1117

ACROSS: 1 Rip-off 4 Creak 9 Outcrop 10 Petal 11 Lute 12 Octopus 14 Imperialist 15 Spillage 19 Navy 22 Lotto 24 Ensured 25 Really 26 Carve

DOWN: 1 Riot 2 Pits 3 Force feed 5 Rap 6 Cullies 7 Enlist 8 Opposite sex 11 Let 13 Polytechnic 15 Militia 16 May 17 Ashlar 20 Verve 21 Idea 23 Oil



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Paul Valley

Angela returns, radiating concern

Here is the news, and this is Angela Rippon making it. The country girl who became the BBC's first woman newsreader spoke to Sally Brompton about her new challenge at Nirex

Angela Rippon's first reaction on being invited to join the board of Nirex, the nuclear waste agency, was "Oh, heck - this is a very hot potato and I don't think I want to get involved."

After months of soul searching over the whole issue of nuclear waste, however, she changed her mind, helped by the "visual images of people in enormous distress." She will never forget the weeping woman on the television news who had just heard that her village was being proposed as a nuclear dumping site. "She was very emotional, but what impressed me was that she was terrified as well," says Rippon. "Until now, there has been no identification that those people are not just angry or worried or vociferous - but terrified."

It was as a result of what she sees as the huge rift of non-comprehension which exists between the nuclear industry and the general public that she finally accepted the job. "I want to de-mystify a lot of what they are talking about and put it into real language. There's a veil of mystery around everything involved with the nuclear industry. While it's easy for the scientists to understand the jargon, the rest of us are left floundering. And if you're in a position of ignorance, you're in a very weak position indeed."

The 42-year-old television presenter and former newsreader is one of three independent directors to be appointed to Nirex in an attempt to repair its disastrous public relations record in the world after Chernobyl. Her co-directors are Professor Sir Hans Kornberg of Christ's College, Cambridge, and Ray Buckton, general secretary of the rail union, ASLEF.

Rippon has no idea whether the announcement of the appointments was deliberately timed for the morning after the showing of the BBC2

documentary, *The Dump* about the distraught villagers of Fulbeck in Lincolnshire, one of four proposed sites for the dumping of nuclear waste. She has not yet seen the programme but recorded it as part of her research into nuclear waste.

"My Christmas reading is anything and everything that has been written on the subject of the nuclear industry - both official and unofficial. There may be ordinary individuals who know more about it than I do at the moment but in six months' time there won't be many."

She feels that her skills as a television reporter will enable her to absorb the necessary information, ask the right questions, and break through the "paternal arrogance that comes very often from scientists because they understand what they are talking about and no one else does."

She sees herself as representing the various environmental pressure groups such as Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth, as well as the general public - particularly people who live near the threatened sites. She has always been closely involved with environmental matters - both professionally, in terms of television documentaries, and personally in that she lives near Tavistock on the edge of Dartmoor and regularly rides her horse across the moors.

"If you have a general awareness of what is happening to the environment then you worry."

She is aware of the risk that the public may interpret her £4,500 a year part time job with Nirex in terms of a crossing of enemy lines. "I think there are going to be a lot of problems," she says. "I've no illusions - it's going to be a very difficult job to do and I think that one of the biggest problems is going to be winning the confidence of the people I'm there to represent."

She has no qualms about making waves. Indeed, when



Nuclear alert: Angela Rippon looks forward to spending Christmas holed up on plutonium

Nirex's chairman, John Baker, told his new directors, "I think you've been very brave to join us," Rippon replied: "I think maybe it will turn out that Nirex has been very brave to have taken us on."

He recognises that it is the most important task she has ever tackled. Her career, to date, has been largely non-controversial. She followed the public debate after she was fired from TV AM as one of the programme's original presenters ("Now I find it more interesting to watch my TV AM shares rather than the programme") by going to America where she spent a year as arts and entertainment reporter for a Boston television station. But she is basically an English country girl and happiest living in the 17th century house in Devon which she and her husband, Christopher Dare, bought for £4,000 in 1969.

They met at a YMCA dance when Rippon was still at school and Dare had just started work as an apprentice electrical fitter at Devonport Dockyard. Now he has his own motor spares business and morally supports his wife in whatever role she is currently involved. When Energy Secretary, Peter Walker, offered her the Nirex job Dare advised her: "If you feel strongly enough about it, do it. The only failure is not trying in the first place."

It was an attitude which reinforced Rippon's own gut reaction. She compares the British public's reluctance to take any personal responsibility for their nuclear future with their behaviour towards child battering. "You hear the screams and think 'I won't ring the police because perhaps someone else might' and the next thing you discover is that the child is dead."

"I really do believe that the public deserve and should

have a voice when it comes to nuclear waste. We've got to bridge this chasm between the scientists, the politicians, those in the industry and the rest of us."

"If anyone in a position of authority is faced by a whole group of people shouting at them, they are inclined to close their mind and perhaps don't take it on board. All I'm saying is that the reason I took on the appointment was because if it was me and they suddenly decided they were going to put a nuclear dump here in Tavistock I would want a voice on the board to put my point of view. Now I am the vicarious representative for all those people who can't speak for themselves."

"I'm all they've got - but at least they've got me, and it's better to have me and Ray Buckton and Hans Kornberg than no one."

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Skin patches catching on

MEDICAL BRIEFING

The application of a plaster, impregnated with a drug which can be slowly absorbed through the skin, is being put to ingenious use in an increasing range of conditions, including post-menopausal symptoms and male hormone shortages. The plaster's initial use was for the prevention of angina; patients, who previously had to take long acting trinitrates by mouth, or more rapidly absorbed ones under the tongue, were able to apply the patch and thereby slowly absorb the drug at an even rate. Unlike those which are absorbed through the gut, the patch allowed the drug to bypass the liver, which metabolises many of them. Smaller doses of the drug can therefore be given.

Their use against travel

sickness has been widely publicised. Volunteer lifeboat crews were recruited for experiments, which studied the effect of the administration of a scopolamine through a patch stuck behind one ear. The sailors lost their seasickness.

Dr Virgil Place, Medical Director of Alza, the company which pioneered skin patches, is reported as saying that Alza already has American approval for a hormonal preparation for the treatment of post-menopausal symptoms and are working on a testosterone patch for men who are short of male hormones. German and

Irish scientists have been experimenting with nicotine skin patches which it is hoped may replace nicotine chewing gum.

Only drugs which will pass easily through the skin can be used in this way. Even the skin patch is not free of problems and there is some risk to children. Cases have been reported in which they have taken parents' plasters or absorbed a drug when hugged too closely by a doting relative.

One side effect which has been reported occasionally affects sexual partners of the anti-anginal drug patch users. They have been surprised to find that while lovemaking they have absorbed enough of the drug to suffer from its side effects; headaches and flushing.

A recurring problem

Glaxo claims that Zantac, an H2 inhibitor used in the treatment of peptic ulceration, is the world's best-selling drug and was an important factor in boosting their pre-tax profits by 52 per cent last year; its rival, Tagamet, is made by Smith Kline and French. Their success in treating severe indigestion, even in the absence of actual ulceration, has made their names household words despite the fact that the majority of patients will relapse; studies show that between 80 and 90 per cent of duodenal ulcers have recurred within a year after treatment with H2 antagonists.

Dr Paul Miller of the Department of Medicine at the University of Manchester suggests, in a leading article in the *British Medical Journal*, that the relapse rate might be lower if other ulcer-healing drugs were used. He compares the rate after the use of H2 antagonists with that following treatment with De-nol (tri-potassium di-citrate bismuthate) made by Brocades, in which only 59 per cent of those treated had relapsed after a year.

Better late

Parents have responded positively to the campaign to increase whooping cough vaccinations.

Figures quoted in the *Drugs and Therapeutics Bulletin* show that the number of children vaccinated fell from 78 per cent in 1971 to 37 per cent in 1974, but rose to 65 per cent last year. In consequence of the numbers of children still unvaccinated the 1977-1979 and 1982-1983 epidemics were particularly large.

Many parents tell doctors that they would rather not have their child vaccinated, but will rely upon antibiotics to clear the infection if they catch it. The report examines the use of antibiotics in whooping cough and comes to the conclusion that none of the anti-bacterial drugs used in whooping cough treatment result in any major clinical benefit.

Experiments show that Erythromycin, which is particularly safe, is very active in the laboratory against pertussis and penetrates sputum even in the human it eradicates the bacteria from the upper respiratory tract within a day or two.

Unfortunately it does not seem to prevent the spread of infection as children pass it on before their symptoms are characteristic.

Antibiotics are useful in the treatment of complications of whooping cough when secondary bacterial infection frequently gives rise to pneumonia and ear infections.

Dr Thomas Stuttford

Of mice and melons ...

Bad news and good news for vegetarians. The bad news is that water melon seeds are so favoured by wholefood devotees may be dangerous. One Harley Street physician was so intrigued to find that some of his British patients were following the example of those from the Middle East and Saharan countries who take water melon seeds for a wide variety of complaints, ranging from stress-incontinence and bedwetting to diabetes, that he resolved to search the literature to see if there was any evidence that the seeds could be harmful.

He discovered that scientists at the University of Karlsruhe had tried feeding them to sheep with disastrous effects on the kidneys. In another experiment they were fed to Arabian goats, desert sheep and Zebu calves, resulting in both liver and kidney damage. Finally, the scientists extracted various tars from the seeds and painted them on to mice, producing dose-related cancerous changes.

If water melon seeds are out, vegetarians will be pleased to learn that tomatoes, cabbage and Brussels sprouts are still in. The *British Medical Journal* reports that although glucosinolates found in green vegetables have a theoretical anti-thyroid action (at the normal rate of consumption) the serum thyroid hormone concentration is not affected by them.

Double the shopping fun

The chance to spend an evening Christmas shopping without the crowds at Liberty proved irresistible to *Times* readers. So much so that the stores throughout the country will now open for a second evening on Tuesday, December 9.

Those readers who applied early are being sent tickets for the first night, Tuesday, December 2. The remainder will receive tickets for the following week.

Both nights offer a wealth of attractions. Closed to the general public from 6.30 pm to

THE TIMES LIBERTY

8.30 pm, each Liberty store will feature a free draw with prizes including a £100 Liberty gift voucher. You will be welcomed with a glass of wine and a special Liberty gift and for every £50 you spend you will be presented with a £5 gift voucher.

On the second night the London store will feature many of the attractions that

we offered on the first, plus some new activities. A special draw will include a weekend for two in Bavaria from German travel specialists DER, with a Liberty weekend case; Cobra and Bellamy jewellery; an oriental carpet; a Liberty hamper of soaps and scents; and a Liberty print handbag.

The Rheingold Bavarian Band and the Chelsea Symphony Orchestra will both play, and graphologist Eric Rees will advise on gifts by analysing the handwriting of the intended recipient.

The offer is now closed.

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A student wiggle for sweet charity

Britain may have quit Unicef but Oxford students are rallying to raise funds

Stylish young ladies, more at home in Oxford's Bodleian Library than in the Body Shop, hung up their blue stockings and slipped into designer lingerie this week to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of Unicef.

"I've wanted to do a fashion show for ages," said Danielle Nay, a second-year French Law student at New College and the organizer of the Oxford Union Fashion Show. "No one has ever done a brilliant show in Oxford and I wanted to prove it was possible."

When Unicef - the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund - telephoned the Oxford Union Society to raise some money, they did not expect the students to do more than pass around an empty baked beans can at one of the union debates.

The debating chamber is a cold, draughty room. From the outside it looks like the top half of St Paul's. It is hardly an

ideal setting for a fashion show - more used to cat-calls than a cat-walk. But after fitting it up with a sound system, several tables and a speakers platform, it was at least prêt-à-party if not prêt-à-porter.

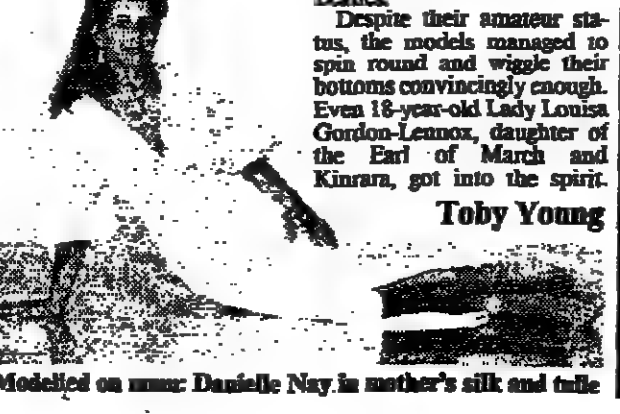
"I just did it because I thought it would be a laugh," said one of the models, Rosamund Blair, a 20-year-old psychology student at St Hilda's. "I thought I might get some free clothes too."

Some of the clothes on show would have to be free to end up on the backs of impoverished students. One outfit provided by Kamari Yama-moto cost £2,000, while some of The Print's hand-painted silk jackets were £600. Other designers were more in line with student budgets. Die-For-It, for instance, sell jackets for Sloane rebels at £16.99 in the Hyper Hyper emporium in Kensington. Most of the clothes were either adorable but unaffordable or cheap but un chic.

"I chatted up the designers at Olympia," admitted Danielle. "We didn't go for any overall look. We just got anyone who agreed to do it." One of those was Helen Anderson, Danielle's Liverpool-based mother, who designed made jackets for the Beatles.

Despite their amateur status, the models managed to spin round and wiggle their bottoms convincingly enough. Even 18-year-old Lady Louisa Gordon-Lennox, daughter of the Earl of March and Kinrara, got into the spirit.

Toby Young



Modelled on mum: Danielle Nay in mother's silk and tulle

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Mink Jackets	£1,995	£199
Stranded Raccoon Jackets	£3,330	£333
Silver Fox Jackets	£1,995	£199
Stranded Raccoon Coats	£3,900	£390
Mink Three Qtrs	£2,650	£265
Stranded Female Mink Coats	£6,650	£665
Stranded Mink Coats	£8,975	£897
Stranded Silver Fox Coats	£9,975	£997

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All prices and other examples correct as of time of going to press. Reduced prices indicate that there are comparable goods more expensive offered at a higher price. Not all items are in all stores. Open from 11.30 AM to 6.30 PM.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Tory race to Reece?

Central Office remains in disarray over the search for a director of communications to mastermind the Tories' election campaign. Four candidates were shortlisted and interviewed almost two weeks ago: Roger Hayes from Thorn EMI, Anthony Knox from Streets Financial, and PR specialists Peter Lendrum and Michael Mander. None has yet been chosen. Nor is the brief as wide as some would wish: candidates were told that press and broadcasting would not be part of their empire. Mrs Thatcher's daily routine stays in the realm of Harvey Thomas, moved sideways from Communications to Presentation earlier this year. Speculation continues that Gordon Reece, the magic ingredient of Mrs Thatcher's two previous victories, will step forward into the breach.

Blue period

Middle age has certainly brought respectability for journalist Richard Walsh, who worked for *Oz*, the underground magazine of which three editors were jailed in 1971 after Britain's longest obscenity trial. He has just become editor of Australia's top-selling *Women's Weekly*.

Roughriding

Britain's signal lack of courtesy is plainly worse than Ian Gregory, secretary of the recently formed Polite Society, initially feared. In its first newsletter he asked the 200 members to nominate the town or village with the best record for common courtesy — the winner to receive a Polite Society plaque to display in the local post office or town hall. So far he has had not one reply. Despite the risk of appearing discourteous, Gregory is compiling a list of places that definitely will not win. At the top comes South Yorkshire.

It's the sand

After a year's negotiations, Britain has made it as a package holiday destination for Saudi Arabians. The British Tourist Authority has announced that all-inclusive British holidays by Saudi Arabian Airlines will be launched while the Prince and Princess of Wales are visiting Saudi this month. Many Arabs, the BTA notes, regard London as a second home, but, since they tend to prefer amusement parks to stately homes, Blackpool also makes it into the Saudi's Britain brochure.

All forgotten

Oxford's Ruskin College has got a nerve. Having censured lecturer David Selbourne, who was boycotted by students over an article that appeared in *The Times*, it now writes to us seeking publicity for its 1987 scholarships. And, says a PS, would we be interested in using the college as a conference centre?

BARRY FANTONI



"My client's evidence, M'lad, will be arriving at 9.57, 10.32 and 11.58"

Goodwill...

Union Scrooges in Wandsworth town hall have tried to scupper a Christmas party for admin typists. They were looking forward to holding it at the National and Local Government Officers Association social club, as they did last year, but were dismayed to be told that unless they were already club members they would have to pay a levy. This was set at £1 for Nalco members, £2 for other union members and £50 for those who did not belong to a union. Faced with such a demand, the secretaries booked the civic suite, which lacks a bar. I cannot help but wonder whether Nalco is acting out of spite, since it has had a long dispute with the admin department over staff leaving Nalco to join other unions. Nalco has exceeded its jurisdiction in this case since, according to administration director Gerald Jones, the club is leased to it by the council "for the use of all staff".

Hot and cold

A reader confesses confusion at receiving, by the same post, two missives from British Gas. "According to our records you are not registered under the scheme and, therefore, are not eligible," reads the first. "Dear British Gas Customer," states the second. "You are registered as a British Gas customer under the Customer Share Scheme..." Both are signed by area manager David Johnson. Does this mark a trend as the day of the Great Flatation approaches?

PHS

Since the early 1970s, western governments have used trade talks, cultural exchanges and arms negotiations to press the Soviet government to make concessions on human rights. While the Soviets continue to reject such demands as interference in their domestic affairs, in private they have been willing to make concessions on what they prefer to call "humanitarian cases".

Two hard questions arise: how far should human rights issues determine the negotiations with the Soviet Union, and to what extent will western pressure change Soviet behaviour towards its people? Some right-wing scholars, Pentagon hawks, Soviet exiles and Jewish emigration activists believe in effect that there is nothing worth negotiating with Moscow except the emigration of dissidents and Jews. These groups argue that the Soviet leadership will only understand when spoken to in the language of force, and believe that the pursuit of human rights justifies trade embargoes and a military build-up aimed at exacerbating the internal economic difficulties of the Soviet system.

This approach appears to make arms control and every other feature of our relations with the Soviet Union a hostage to progress on human rights. Moreover, it assumes that Moscow will respond favourably to the bribery of human rights linkage.

Yet when the US Congress passed the Jackson-Vanik and Stevenson amendments in 1974 linking economic concessions to Soviet liberalization of Jewish emigration, the Kremlin reduced Jewish emigration from a flood to a trickle. As the legacy of détente attests, the prospects for human rights are best when progress is being made on arms control. It was in the period of détente that the emigration of Soviet Jews and dissidents increased most, and

Soviet dissident Yuri Orlov today meets Mrs Thatcher to plead for greater pressure over human rights. Michael Ignatieff argues for an approach based on political reality

Don't lean on Moscow — it just won't work

emigration was among the casualties of détente's collapse.

A second broad strand of emigration and dissident opinion accepts that failure to make progress on human rights ought not to stand in the way of other bilateral interests, notably arms talks, but insists that arms talks in themselves can do little to reduce the tension between the superpowers. Western nations should use every negotiating field — nuclear arms, trade, cultural and scientific exchanges, technology transfer — to press for improvements in Soviet citizens' basic freedoms in order to wear away the ignorance and suspicion which prevent the establishment of long-term peace.

Such views gain in authority when expressed by men of courage such as Yuri Orlov (this page, November 26) but questions remain about the exact dimensions of the changes in Soviet society that can reasonably be expected from human rights leverage. It is one thing to lobby on a case-by-case basis or to press for a comprehensive exit visa agreement; quite another to envisage western human rights pressure as

a means of transforming Soviet society. The patchy opening out since Stalin's death owes less to western pressure than to the Politburo's belief that some degree of liberalization may be necessary for economic and social progress.

To demand that the Soviet Union grant its citizens what the West means by freedom of the press, freedom of speech, and freedom of political organization is to ask the Communist Party to dissolve over its own dissolution. Orlov and others imply that external pressure will be reinforced by growing internal pressure to dismantle the apparatus of secrecy and repression which holds back the development of Soviet society.

Soviet history gives scant comfort to those who believe that intellectual freedom is a necessary condition for economic and social progress. A regime that has taken its people from wooden shoes to spacecraft in 70 years, from backwardness to superpower status, will have difficulty believing that future progress depends on allowing its citizens freedoms it never allowed them before.

As long as the Soviet Union can get the technical and scientific information it needs by way of its secret services, it is under little pressure to enter into free and open intellectual exchange with the West. As long as the economy can continue to grind out tiny increases in standards of living and maintain military competitiveness with the West it faces no genuine economic imperative towards increased liberalization.

The West has a right to ask the Soviet leadership to live up to its pledges about legality. The West has a humanitarian duty to speak up on behalf of those who wish to emigrate. Individuals who work with Soviet citizens on scientific, technical or cultural projects should bring up human rights cases even when, or especially when, these cases embarrass their Soviet friends. But between governments it is not a credible negotiating stance to demand of a sovereign state that it change the essential nature of its political organization.

At present the disarmament and human rights issues are beset by illusion: on the arms control side the fantasy of a world delivered from nuclear weapons by Star Wars technology, and on human rights the illusion of pushing the Soviet system towards western standards of individual freedom. Neither utopia can serve as a realistic basis for policy.

We can negotiate with the Soviet Union only as it is, not as we would wish it to be; a negotiating strategy dominated by an unrealistic human rights agenda is as likely to fail as one dominated by the dream of a technological fix. We cannot afford to fail. If the post-Reykjavik stalemate goes on, those whose rights we wish to protect may suffer.

Michael Ignatieff, a philosopher and historian, presents *Thinking Aloud* on BBC2.

Robert Fisk on the consequences of Reagan's arms deal with Iran

Arabian faith betrayed

The newsmaster on Tehran Radio was being careful yesterday. In the main midday bulletin he dutifully referred to American "allegations" that millions of dollars paid by Iran for US arms had been channelled to the Contras in Nicaragua. But then he embarked on a long news item which quoted the details of the Contra leadership in great detail, giving credit to their claims that they had never received the money. Receiving US arms is one thing; sending your cash to the Contras quite another.

Ayatollah Khomeini has been doing his best to silence any discussions on the subject. Last week he tried to still the remarkably dramatic debates on the arms deal in the Majlis (parliament), commenting that the voices of assembly members sounded "harsher than that of Israel". Scarcely any reference has been made to Israel's role in shipping American weapons to Iran. Khomeini wants no Watergates in Tehran.

There are fierce arguments, of course, particularly between Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani, the Parliament speaker, and Ayatollah Montazeri, Khomeini's successor, whose initial ignorance of the negotiations with the Americans has annoyed him more than the arms deal itself. But Rafsanjani has been left to maintain the public voice of Iran which remains scornful of Washington, boastful of its own achievements, self-satisfied at the humiliation of its enemies.

In the past it has been the West which divided the people of the East against one another, which set Iranians against themselves. "Now we are paying the US back in its own coin," Rafsanjani has proclaimed, promising archly that "there is more to say about this issue and we shall clarify it later." The Americans will find no comfort in such words. Across the Arab world their coin had long been devalued by a whole series of foreign policy and military blunders stretching from Lebanon through Egypt to Libya and Tunisia. It will need another president in the White House before the Arabs trust America again.

In public, of course, the anger has been muted. In Egypt, whose economy is totally dependent on the US, President Mubarak, fearing political upheavals, merely expresses surprise at the arms shipments to Iran. King Hussein is too loyal a friend of the West to do more than call the negotiations an insult to Arabs. The Iraqis, who



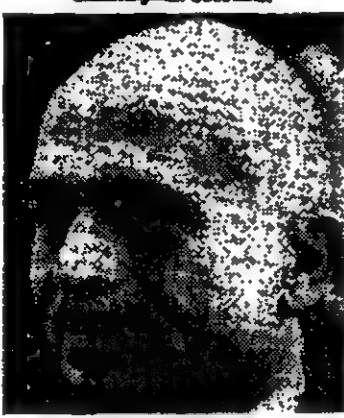
Khomeini: low profile



Rafsanjani: scornful



Mubarak: surprised



Hussein: an insult

have most reason to object, confined their fury to a few words from their foreign minister, while the Kuwaitis, in whose capital the guns of the Gulf War can be clearly heard, expressed only their concern that America had damaged its credibility as a superpower. This was, to say the least, a generous reaction from states to whom the American president had consistently and regularly made promises which he evidently did not intend to keep.

The point, of course, is that most Arab leaders had long ago grown used to President Reagan's obfuscations, confusion and wishful thinking. They had long ago accustomed themselves to the gun-to-language of an American who was going to "walk talk" in the world and who then ordered his marines to retreat from Lebanon; who promised to support the sovereignty of Tunisia and then approved of an Israeli bombing raid on the PLO in Tunis; who bombed Libya for Colonel Gaddafi's inquiries but left Syria untouched, because it was too powerful to attack; who went to

war against "international terrorism" and then rewarded its progenitors with grants. Most of the Arab leaders had known for months that US weapons were being shipped to Iran with Israeli help. In short, they thought that President Reagan often told lies. Now they are certain to understand the sadness as well as the contempt which this has induced among the pro-western Arab leaders.

It is necessary to realize the extent of the embarrassment which some of them have suffered at Reagan's hands. Was it not Reagan who ordered the hijacking of the Achille Lauro hijackers as they fled to Tunisia aboard an Egyptian airliner? Was it not President Mubarak, as loyal a friend of America as any Arab leader, who had to set his riot police against his own Egyptian students as they demonstrated against the American decision? Yet now that same US president who was prepared to damage Mubarak's credibility in the cause of his crusade against evil turns out to have been sitting down with

the devil: or at the least sending him a cake along with a plane-load of arms.

It was the Americans who advised the Egyptians to storm their own hijacked airliner at Malta last year. "Give them both barrels," the Egyptians were personally advised by Schultz, the US Secretary of State. The Egyptian commandos did just that: albeit that the barrels fired most of their bullets into the passengers rather than the hijackers. Now the Americans turn out to have been sending weapons to Iran at the same time, arming the allies of Syria whose own acolytes are believed to have been behind the same jet's hijacking.

King Hussein has tried repeatedly to bring the PLO into talks to negotiate with the Israelis over the future of the West Bank. The PLO shamefully deserted him. So did the Americans, whose toleration of Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank and of the Israeli army in southern Lebanon has been in such marked contrast with his anger about Syria's military presence in Lebanon. Repeatedly, the Americans have promised the Arab Gulf states that they will be defended, that there will be no Iranian expansion in the Gulf region. The Arab sheikdoms quietly accepted this confidence. Now they know that if the Iranians attack they will be carrying new American weapons with them.

The parameters of Reagan's world, in which the Afghan mujahideen are "freedom fighters" and the Palestinian Fedayeen "terrorists", is a familiar one in the Middle East. But the Arabs do not like to be lectured, especially by a nation which wishes to play the role of honest broker but which is totally committed to one side in the Arab-Israeli conflict; and the Reagan administration has done more moral lecturing than most of its predecessors.

The association of things western with things good, of things anti-American with things bad, has long been a theme of American policy in the Middle East. The Soviets have an almost identical policy except that it operates in reverse. But Reagan was the first man to carry a crusade into the Middle East, and he did so at the very time when a far more fundamentalist crusade had begun in the area: one under which Reagan has become the delight of his enemies and the despair of his Arab friends.

They have passed with their wires, confirms the difficulty.

There are technical uncertainties too. Development of the high-technology transmitting devices required for the satellites have been beset with problems. So have the rockets needed to launch the satellites. Insurers currently regard the odds of a launch failure at around 24 per cent. Delays in getting the satellite into orbit will add years to the date at which a DBS service can start, and millions to the costs.

The first DBS to be launched, in Japan, stopped working soon after it went into space. Even in France and West Germany, where DBS projects have been heavily subsidized (which they will not be in Britain), the experience has been sobering. Both satellites are currently five years behind schedule. DBS is not the only way to improve choice in broadcasting. The same goal can be achieved by investment in cable TV and increasing the number of conventional television stations. The danger is that, by concentrating on DBS, the government will continue to neglect the alternatives.

Jonathan Miller
Media Correspondent

Dish of plenty or pie in the sky?

dish. On this estimation hangs BSB's hope to attract advertising and subscription revenue to cover the £200 million needed to get the system into place, and a further £100 million to pay for programmes and marketing and to meet other costs.

Is this figure realistic? Little in the history of television suggests that it is. In 1977, the first year in which Japanese video-cassette recorders became available in Britain, only 20,000 were sold. It took six years for sales to exceed 2.5 million. Colour televisions, introduced in 1967, showed an almost identical path.

Not all the pro-DBS operators are as optimistic as the Granada-Virgin-Amstrad consortium. Direct Broadcasting Ltd, backed by Ferranti, News International and Sears Holdings, forecasts more conservatively that 500,000 dishes will be sold in the first three years after launch. But even this more modest projection

assumes that more than twice as many people will buy satellite dishes as bought video cassette recorders in the first three years they were on sale.

Obviously, the comparison is imperfect. Satellite dishes at an estimated £250 will be cheaper than either colour televisions or video. But they will probably be more difficult to install. Hooking up a video recorder is a project within the technical competence of almost anyone. Erecting a dish on a roof is not.

Furthermore, both BSB and DBL also expect to collect subscription fees from viewers. Here there is even greater uncertainty. Research by the Peacock Committee suggested that, with no tradition of pay television in Britain, viewers might be extremely reluctant to subscribe to television services. The experience of cable television operators, who so far have signed up only about 20 per cent of the houses

David Watt

Reagan: the truth at last exposed

The disaster which has engulfed the White House has been coming a long time. It has been inherent in the Reagan presidency from the very beginning in 1981, its nature perfectly obvious to any serious observer. It was spelt out in the memoirs of Alexander Haig, the former Secretary of State, and in David Stockman's account of his time as Budget Director. Every authentic anecdote to have emerged from the White House has confirmed it. The US has a president who does not have the intellectual energy or capacity required for the conduct of foreign policy, and the sides on whom he depends to do it for him are third-rate. The results have been continuous squabbling within the administration, wild fluctuations of policy, and a long series of mistakes brought on by panicky attempts to impress domestic opinion with bogus ideological consistency and quick results.

These facts have been concealed from the American public for a number of reasons — partly Reagan's extraordinary skill and charm as a television performer but, more to the point, public self-deception. After Vietnam, Watergate, and the Tehran hostages nightmare they have desperately wanted Reagan to succeed, and since he has acted the part of the successful president to perfection nobody in the US (certainly not the media, still smarting from accusations of having brought down Nixon by foul means) has until recently dared or indeed wished to break the euphoric spell. Foreign opinion has been more perceptive, but there has been an understandable conspiracy among the European establishments to make the best of a bad job.

It is also fair to say, in defence of Reagan, that the underlying problem that has produced the present crisis is intractable and systemic. In an era when foreign policy is the transcendent political issue of American government, the president cannot afford to relinquish control of it either to members of his cabinet or to the legislature. But if he tries to impose himself seriously on the subject (through some such instrument as the National Security Council or special advisers in the White House) he automatically sets up enormous tensions between his own machine and the powerful institutions — State Department, Pentagon and, above all, Congress — that have a vested interest in it.

And not only that. There is almost bound to be a tension between two sorts of White House adviser: the man who seeks to ensure that the president's foreign strategy is carried out and the man whose job is to keep the president out of domestic trouble and sees foreign policy as a means or an obstacle to that end.

These are genuine difficulties and it cannot be said that any president since Eisenhower has

solved them wholly satisfactorily. The Nixon White House provided the classic demonstration of the problem, with the president's man, Kissinger, cheating Congress and bypassing the State Department and Pentagon, and Nixon's political "minders", Haldeman and Ehrlichman, cracking dirty jokes with the president and quarrelling with and often bypassing everyone, including Kissinger, to keep the political lid on.

It was a sordid set-up, wasteful of talent and energy and frequently in violation of the constitution, but it worked after a fashion, because Nixon was a highly intelligent man with great international experience. Kissinger was a remarkable operator, and even Haldeman and company usually had enough sense to see when they were out of their depth on the international side.

The case against Reagan is that he has never managed to make the system work, even after a fashion. His national security advisers have been lacklustre. His Californian political "minders", with the exception of James Baker, have been aggressively parochial and tactical in their approach to foreign affairs, and Reagan himself, too inexperienced and too unable or unwilling to grapple with detail, has never been able to control what has gone on at the centre of government. General Haig's picture of the Reagan White House as a kind of ghost ship whose sails move mysteriously and almost randomly with nobody on deck is a telling one.

Reagan rightly sensed that America was looking to him for confidence, security and peace (in that order). The first of these, being a psychological commodity, he has managed to restore by rhetoric and gestures. But he has never been able to provide more than the shadows of the last two; consequently the effort to prevent even confidence slipping away again has had to become more and more frenetic; hence the disinformation campaign and Colonel North's laundering activities.

What has happened now is therefore far more significant than the subject matter of the Iranian row. The point is that the Reagan myth has been shattered. The conjurer's false pockets have been turned inside out and the Emperor has been revealed in all his nakedness. Nothing will be the same again. Even if a little of the present scandal can be deflected from Reagan himself by the suitable sacrifice of scapegoats, the Democrats and the media will have no difficulty, over the coming months, in making the incompetence charge against him stick. Its validity flows from a fundamental and irremediable flaw in this administration, and people, having once seen it for what it is, cannot forget what they have seen.

A.N. Author

Shaping up to rejection

Today I want to take as the target of my spleen that much under-maligned figure of the literary world, the publisher's reader. I have one particular example of the genus in mind. She "works" for the fiction department of Chatto and Windup and has such a full complement of all the faults which stalk her breed that, by giving her a bad time in the press, I feel we are going at least some way towards adequately rubbishing the rest of her ilk.

It is said of her within the trade that she has a built-in tripe detector — which I take to mean that she recognizes tripe when she sees it, and pushes for it to be published without delay. Worse still, she rejected my tripe.

I apologise for being so dyspeptic about bookfollies this week. The other day on this page I gave my enemy C.R. Hix a terrible going-over for his disgusting elitism (you may have read it, although one part of me hopes that you did not, since your ignorance of his existence would help to abet the obscurity which he deserves). I bumped into him in Bedford Square the following morning, and he cut me dead, which is the nicest thing that has happened to me since he was so rude in *Publishing Times* about my first novel, *The Soul of Mrs Saxby* (Sucker and Windup, £6.95). I must confess to deriving great pleasure from the fact that my depiction of him was instantly recognized by his fellow club members.

Put my tartness down to the time of year, this being the season that A.N. Author and his fellows on the basest rung of the literary ladder receive "royalty cheques" for £4.95 — if they are lucky. Can you wonder that this quickens the author's envy of those who, with only marginal qualifications (frequently the qualifications of failure in the very field which they criticize) prescribe the prospects of the ones who still endeavour to make a crust from honest fiction?

But where was I? Digressing, as ever. The publisher's reader. Now, I admit that had I been employed in a house to sample the untired work of the young Charles Dickens (*The Pickwick Papers* had 20 rejections), or that of the early James Joyce (*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* got 40), I would have been equally as dismissive. But that is not the point. I have

long assumed that publishers' readers are employed less for their critical faculties than for their contours. Have you noticed that all the members of this calling are curvaceous young graduates from universities with a middling reputation for academic excellence?

Their careers tend to run as follows: leave university with an indifferent degree in Eng Lit; inveigle your way into publishing via a combination of Daddy's friends and something that passes for charm; become chief PR by the age of 28, and acquire a seat on the board not more than five years later.

The reader of whom I write has a special formula for sampling the manuscripts of aspiring authors. If you can believe it — and I swear it is the truth — she reads the third sentence of the first page, the fifth sentence of page 69 (don't ask me why), and the first sentence of the last page. If these three elements give her a favourable impression of the prose style, she might just delve at random into a few of the other lovingly typed sheets before bunting it off to the typesetters.

If her attention remains ungrabbed, she will dictate to her secretary (an avid Mills and Boon reader) a letter along the following lines, which I have before me on my desk, even as I write.

"Dear A.N. Author (or whoever). While many of us here quite enjoyed your exposition of suburban amours, it was felt that 250 pages was a somewhat excessive use of space for the sexual foibles of a frankly implausible social arbiter."

Mostly these letters of rejection get a few things wrong; either the name of the book, or the name of the author, more frequently both. Unfortunately they do tend to get the address right.

My very good friend A.N. Other-Author has a wonderful play in mind. He is going to submit a manuscript to the fiction department of Chatto and Windup in which the third sentence of the first page, the fifth sentence of page 69, and the final sentence of the last page will clip together nicely as a coherent denunciation of a publisher's reader. I fear that something will go unwritten right within the system, and that Chatto and Windup will put the work on its spring list. I will let you know.



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

A CAP OF WOE

All the heads of Government meeting in London next week for the EEC summit know perfectly well that the Community's agricultural policy is grotesquely wasteful, damaging to member countries and even more to the world outside, unpopular and ultimately unsustainable.

The evidence marshalled this week in our survey of how the Common Agricultural Policy has gone adrift reinforces a lesson which has been plain for almost twenty years to all except those who are determined not to see. But the prospect of any decisive action next week is remote.

The fact is that the CAP is not yet unpopular enough. The sections of the community which benefit from it are passionate in resisting change, while the consumers and taxpayers who meet the cost are only mildly aggrieved as yet at being required to fund the purchase of millions of tons of grain, milk and butter which nobody needs.

In spite of the steady reduction in farming manpower which the policy has succeeded in bringing about with relatively little pain, the agricultural lobby remains as powerful as ever in most parts of Europe. Germany, far the largest cash contributor to the policy and the key country in any fundamental reform, is holding elections in January, and its politicians are certain to pay abject court to their farmers at least until then.

Britain, with relatively few farmers, is freer than other members to take an initiative. But the conflict in the early 1980s over our share of the EEC budget, necessary as it was, has left us with minimal goodwill to build on. The Government is now apparently convinced that reform cannot come without resort to the drastic measure of taking land out of production. To

reassure its partners, it continues to insist that only minor adjustments are needed.

In default of concerted action, the point is not far off when, as Mr Roy Jenkins warns, EEC members will seek to "rationalise" their agricultural policies — a course which would strike a fundamental blow at the aspirations of the Treaty of Rome and threaten to draw the industrial community into ruin with the agricultural one. The possibility of a tariff war over farm prices breaking out between Europe and the equally over-productive USA multiplies the dangers of such policies to the rich economies which can afford to protect their farmers in this way — let alone to the less affluent economies to which these policies export the inherent insecurities of agriculture.

If the problem were simply one of over-production, it could be cured quite easily through the price mechanism. The most efficient farmers would survive, the weaker would go to the wall. Without complementary social policies, however, the social damage would be considerable and the political cost high. It is essential that the regime should either continue to provide a measure of protection for farmers who are less well able to compete or give them transitional aid to leave the land. Which approach suits which cases will depend mainly on whether they are in areas where the industry still operates at a low level of efficiency, or whether the terrain and the climate make it simply impossible to match the output of more favoured regions.

A whole battery of protections and inducements already exists, to temper the wind to French peasants, Welsh hill farmers and Bavarian part-time sons of the soil. In the

short term, compulsory limits on productive acreage may also be necessary. For only when an arrangement is reached which ensures control of the surpluses will it be possible even to begin dismantling the food mountains.

It is a worthwhile discipline to contemplate the future in the light of Dr Mansholt's prediction in our series that within 50 years Europe is likely to be able to meet its food needs from one-third of today's acreage. What kind of rural society, what kind of outdoor environment, can we envisage as desirable if some such future as that lies before us? It must be one, above all, in which a smaller percentage of Europe's workforce remains on the land.

The imperative of 30 years ago, to maximise production, becomes the least of our problems in such a context. Incentives to raise output — by grubbing up pretty hedges, buying new machinery which releases farmlands to join the urban dole queue, or by saturating the land with fertilisers which pollute our lakes and rivers — become not merely irrelevant but counter-productive.

The marginal farmer and his protestations will, almost by definition, be with us always. With fewer farmers, however, he should be marginal at less cost to the taxpayer than he is today. Let him also have other strings to his bow to make him less dependent on his farm. All this needs to be achieved without making farming a kind of museum occupation where no stimulus to enterprise remains.

Europe's perennial debate over farm support needs to change. Today's squandered resources must be purposefully redirected towards fostering the kind of rural economy that the Community as a whole desires and can afford.

POWER TO THE SHAREHOLDERS

The Confederation of British Industry has made a welcome initiative in bringing together a task force of powerful figures from finance and manufacturing to bridge the growing rift between the City and industry. For it became plain at the CBI's recent annual conference that many managers today view the City with the same combination of suspicion, fear and frustration that they once reserved for trade unions.

It is argued, with a voice of powerful intellectual support from the Bank of England, that the culture of short-term thinking and the drive for short-term profits in the financial markets is being forced on industry. That threatens long-term investment, research and development and the launching of new products on which economic growth ultimately depends.

Industry principally resents the entrenchment of takeover fever on the stock market. When, a year ago, the takeover boom reached a crescendo with £5 billion of bids in a single week, it could still be regarded as merely a phase of excess for basically benign market forces. The big insurance companies and pension funds which between them control most companies might

safely be left to restore confidence in their ability to sort the wheat of commercially valuable mergers from the chaff of fashion and short-term premiums.

It is no longer credible to give the City full benefit of the doubt. The free market remains, as it always will be, the only guide to the control of companies on which any reliance can be placed. The market's internal dynamics have, however, introduced a distortion. The tendency to treat shares in companies as mere tradable pieces of paper has accelerated. Increasing competition and structural changes in the financial world have spawned what amounts to a takeover industry that has become an important continuing source of profit to many of the new integrated financial groups. Big companies too often see only a choice between using the City's takeover machine or becoming raw material for it.

The CBI task force could play an important role in resolving these problems. Its members should understand that stultifying Whitehall interference is likely to be the price of their failure. In doing so, they will need to recognize that, while improving relations between individual companies and their big shareholders can play a useful role, enlightened attitudes cannot alone reverse market trends. Perhaps that relationship needs a new formal framework in which market disciplines can be allowed to operate freely. And a greater role should be found for the mass of new small private shareholders if they are not to become disillusioned and powerless spectators.

One possibility is that big institutional shareholders should be more directly represented in the average boardroom, encouraging greater involvement and giving them much greater direct power over company policy and management. It is often the case that the dominant shareholders are able to exercise their power only by dealing in shares on the market. Small shareholders, who paradoxically take a longer view than the professionals, might be compensated with some indirect influence through enhanced voting power. Some such compromise may be needed to deter instant swings of control in the market while preserving the market's discipline. But the basic choice still appears to lie between greater Whitehall control or new boardroom structures.

THE KING'S PEACE?

Lord Dawson of Penn has killed many men. That is why we sing "God Save the King". So ran a favourite contemporary rhyme about the doctor of George V. Nobody who repeated it would turn out to be so sharply and literally to the point.

Shakespeare's Richard II takes the view that all monarchs are murdered. The "news" that Napoleon died from unnatural causes on St Helena caused some surprise at the time even if its shock value was reduced because Napoleon was a foreigner, an upstart, too clever by half, and responsible for the death of so many of his fellow human beings that it was only fair he should be done in himself.

But our own King George V, who renounced his foreign origins during the First World War — defending his Britishness against the aspersions of H.G. Wells — and who, though responsible for the death of innumerable game-birds, was innocent of human killing, might have been expected to be allowed to die not only in

his bed (Napoleon did that) but also in his own, or God's, good time.

Such an ordinary departure was, however, denied him. We now know that he was hastened on his way by the toxic attentions of Dawson, and that the motive for this act of regicide was, at least partly, that the doctor felt it would be unsuitable for news of the King's death to be announced, first, in the evening papers.

We can understand Dawson's prejudice, all the more so as he applied it for the special benefit of *The Times*, telephoning his wife to advise us that our first edition should be held back (until the effects of his ministrations were complete). Even in those days it was a bit above the odds to be tipped off that the King was about to die by the man who was killing him. Despite our own and the general distaste for what was done, the value of such a source has to be acknowledged.

At a more serious level, we can surely assume that Dawson's chief motive was to spare his patient unnecessary discomfort and pain, and in that

sense he, like most other doctors then as now, must indeed have "killed many men" — and women. Euthanasia at the margin of life is unofficially practised by the medical profession, and is only called in question when there is a suspicion of criminal motive.

It was not hypocritical of Dawson at about the same time to oppose in the House of Lords the legalization of euthanasia, and to say "we do not lay down edicts for such things". The case for leaving the discretion to doctors is strong, because a defined system would probably be more open to abuse than the lack of one.

All the same, we must hope that Dawson's example is not widely followed so far as his subsidiary motive is concerned. Kings and commoners alike are entitled to hope that their end will not be accelerated by their doctors for any other purpose than to spare them suffering — even if the other purpose is so intrinsically worthy as promoting the interests of *The Times*.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Built-in curbs on prison reform

From the Director of the Prison Reform Trust

Sir, If politicians are to bring their thinking to bear upon the prisons — as you counsel in your leader today (November 25) — the first question to pose is whether the rising prison population is, in your words, a "severe restraint" upon prison policy or an integral part of that policy.

Successive governments have predicated their expenditure plans upon a rise in the number of prisoners. Planning a reduction in the number of prisoners, say to the EEC average, would introduce at a stroke the greater clarity which you seek about who should be sent to prison, what for, and for how long.

Such a reduction in the pressure of numbers would also make feasible the establishment of humane minimum standards. As things stand at the moment, a substantial proportion of the prison population will still be using chamber pots and "slopping" over well into the next century.

When, earlier this year, the Permanent Secretary at the Home Office was asked by the Public Accounts Committee when this most degrading and unhygienic ritual would come to an end, he

had to admit he did not know. Furthermore, the very levels of overcrowding are leading to the postponement of modernisation schemes for the most antiquated prisons. The recently published Prison Department annual report records that renovation of Dartmoor has been put off and cells which had been vacated for the work to take place have been reoccupied.

The department states plainly that "if the recent population increase is maintained it may hamper redevelopment plans by limiting our ability to decant inmates into vacant accommodation while carrying out refurbishment schemes".

No one who has had to debate the case for a reduced use of imprisonment will doubt the challenge which it presents. Nevertheless, at the end of an extremely difficult year for the prison service, it is remarkable that the Government seems to have ignored the opportunity for reform which was presented by the new Criminal Justice Bill.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN SHAW, Director,
Prison Reform Trust,
59 Colindale Avenue, N1,
November 25.

Airborne warning

From the Managing Director of GEC Avionics Limited

Sir, The assertion made by Mr Pamplin, of Westinghouse (November 25), that the Boeing gives earlier warning of attack than Britain's AEW-Nimrod is misleading. The Minister of State for Defence Procurement, Mr Trefgarne, has publicly stated the expectation of his department that "both solutions have the potential to meet our requirements".

The task is to choose the system which does so in the most cost-effective way. By this criterion, the choice will certainly fall on AEW-Nimrod, as is so clearly brought out in Sir Woodrow Wyatt's article (November 15).

Moreover, the interest in putting the British radar and electronics into the C-130 Hercules is not just GEC's Lockheed-Georgia has been working for some years on this project and have completed very detailed system design and wind tunnel tests. They obviously do see a strong export market, as evidenced by their willingness to spend money on the project and their presence in London now.

The fact is that some 15

countries have already received detailed Lockheed-GEC presentations and proposals are even now on the table to several of them. That the C-130 AEW can now offer a radar performance which is comparable to Boeing's, and at a fraction of the cost, only increases the pressure on Boeing to exclude Britain from the world competition at all costs.

It is inconceivable that the UK would find greater benefit from the paper "jobs" implied by offset than from jobs created by producing and exporting its own hardware technology. Offset in a free market only means the right to bid competitively. UK companies already have that right, and when competitive they win orders in the USA anyway, and elsewhere.

This is precisely what GEC has been successfully doing in avionics for the past 25 years and can continue to do with the C-130 AEW system. Only a decision not to buy Nimrod can frustrate this capability.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM H. ALEXANDER,
Managing Director,
GEC Avionics Limited,
Airport Works,
Rochester, Kent,
November 26.

Thin blue line

From Mr Allen Chubb

Sir, The letter today (November 19) from the Chief Commandant of the Metropolitan Police Constabulary rightly draws attention to the contribution which specialists make to policing in London. How much greater their contribution would be if they were used more intelligently and given more encouragement. Too often, they are a wasted resource.

In 1985, 24 per cent of them resigned and of these 72 per cent resigned for reasons other than reaching the age limit, leaving the district or joining the regulars. They included many experienced specialists who were of great value

on the street as police officers, often at the busiest times, and in guiding new recruits.

While the national strength of specialists has increased for the fourth year in succession, the number of specialists in London has declined, the good continual intake of enthusiastic recruits only partially making up for those leaving.

Scotland Yard and the Home Office must address themselves to the reasons for this high wastage without further delay.

Yours faithfully,
ALLEN CHUBB,
Child & Child, Solicitors,
13 Motcomb Street, SW1,
November 19.

Ski development

From the Chairman of the Scottish National Ski Council

Sir, I am writing in support of Ronald Faux's article (November 19, some editions) on ski development at Fort William.

At peak times the Scottish ski resorts have reached saturation point. Access roads are congested, car parks are overflowing, and participants must queue to ski. In spite of these disincentives the number of people who ski in Scotland is increasing significantly each year.

The proposed development at Fort William will allow the congestion in other ski areas and attract new skiers to the sport. These will not be missed by fellow skiers, or by already overcrowded communities.

Competitive skiing is being retarded in the only appropriate mountainous area of the UK because chairlift companies are understandably reluctant to reserve slopes for racing when they are required by the mass of recreational skiers.

Another major ski area is desperately required. Government should support those agencies, such as the Highlands and Islands Development Board and Lochaber District Council, which have offered assistance to a town fighting to save itself from the degradation of mass unemployment.

Yours faithfully,
ALLAN D. QUINN (Chairman,
Scottish National Ski Council),
16 Craigs Crescent,
Edinburgh,
November 19.

Lost for words

From Mr Richard J. Hildesley

Sir, I was interested to read Mr Richard Lewis's letter (November 20) expressing nostalgic concern over the possible drying up of the typing pool. Few of those who felt drowned by such impersonal arrangements as this, I suspect, mind their passing.

Modern technology has equipped our secretaries and typists with word processors and the typing pool survives, albeit thinly and euphemistically disguised under the banner "central secretarial services", or some similar device.

Frequently these days we find ourselves placing secretaries in smaller groups of two or three, which seems to be the benefit of both them and those they serve. In our practice, we refer to such groupings as "puddles"; so total dehydration is not with us yet.

Perhaps we can reassure Mr Lewis by suggesting that "she is not dead, but bleepeth".

Yours electronically,
RICHARD J. HILDESLEY,
Space Planning Services, Plc,
Western House,
Uxbridge Road,
Hillingdon, Middlesex.

Colouring films

From Mr Brian R. Pow

Sir, Further to David Robinson's article on the "colorization" of old movies (November 24), I suggest that every film which has been treated this way be prefaced with the statement: "This film has been artificially coloured. It was originally shot in black and white."

At least the makers' original intentions would be remembered.

Yours sincerely,
BRIAN R. POW,
28 Heathfield Gardens, W4,
November 24.

am proud to be one, are threatened in 1987 with price increases of some 20 per cent in their basic raw material. This is likely to lead to a loss of market and a loss of jobs at the hands of cartel-like operations within European state-owned steel producers. We face the prospect of British Steel marketing to spurious glory over our dead bodies and may be forgiven a degree of bitterness. Of course, we have to compete in a wholly international free market economy.

Mr Scholey is reported as saying that the steel industry needs stable prices. At the very least he should

Steel price stability

From Mr James Campbell

Sir, Your report (November 13) substantially improved half-year "profits" at British Steel. Achieving good results in any enterprise which has received untold volumes of free capital from taxpayers and which operates within a market-manipulating cartel should be easy. Protection from competitive import penetration must also help.

The other side of the coin is that the customers of British Steel, Britain's much maligned engineering industry managers, of whom I

extend these to his customers who, after all, would rightly be prosecuted if they sought to combine to frustrate the workings of economic forces for their own benefit, as does the steel industry.

Mr Scholey should surely not welcome privatisation, under which he would have to operate in fair competition both with his friends in Europe and Third World producers.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES CAMPBELL, Chairman,
G.F.E. Barlett & Son Ltd,
Maylands Avenue,
Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire,
November 14.

Radio hazard on the motorway

From Mrs A. Campbell Jensen

Sir, I often have to drive long distances, cross-country, late at night. During recent months I have been subject to several breakdowns, in spite of taking every precaution to keep my car in good running order.

With ever-increasing incidents of rape, and in view of police and judicial advice that women should not walk alone in the dark, I have decided that it would make sense to have a telephone installed in my car.

The attraction of this idea was slightly shaken on a motorway recently when I saw a car closing upon me from behind at alarming speed. Only when I flashed my rear fog-lights did the driver appear to realise that he was on a collision course. He was deep in conversation on a car telephone. When he overtook me neither of his hands was on the wheel: the left one was full of telephone and he was gesticulating with the right.

I followed this driver's erratic progress (as he altered his speed dramatically from cruising on the inside lane to overtaking everything in sight, it was impossible to lose him) for well over half an hour, through the hazards of filtering and heavy traffic. He appeared to be in constant conversation and therefore unable to use his indicators whilst weaving from lane to lane.

Before I invest in a phone of my own could someone please tell me whether there is a chance that the Government and/or motor insurance companies have plans to ban the use, when moving, of all hand-held models — except in cases of necessity by police and rescue services trained in the use of such equipment?

As things stand, I am less likely to be slaughtered by a rapist than by a phone-crazed car driver.

Yours faithfully,
ALISON CAMPBELL JENSEN,
Rectory Farmhouse,
Briftord,
Salisbury, Wiltshire,
November 19.

Neglected exam?

From the Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Strathclyde

Sir, Well done, Mr Ferrar (November 20). Almost all sensible men and women appreciate the foolishness of early specialisation in schools but the new AS examination will not have an easy time, if only because the vested interests in the present arrangements are so powerful.

Take courage, however: the baccalaureate system is alive and well in Scotland, where the simultaneous learning of English and a foreign language and a science subject is the norm for most pupils.

I doubt that Scotland comes into your category of a major European neighbour, still less a rival, and that may be why what has been done here so well and for so long tends to be overlooked.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM HILL,
Principal and Vice-Chancellor,
University of Strathclyde,
McCaig Building,
16 Richmond Street, Glasgow,
November 21.

The Queen's victim

From Mr J. A. Stanley

Sir, Your correspondent, Mr Nicolas Bellord (November 20), asks whether the African Queen's victim, the Gotzen (now Liemba), is still afloat.

I am glad to be able to tell him that this historic vessel was still making regular trips round Lake Tanganyika when I visited Ujiji (Kigoma) in July, 1985, and I imagine she will continue for many years yet.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN SANKEY (High Commissioner,
Tanzania, 1982-85),
United Kingdom Mission,
37-39 rue de Vermont,
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland,
November 20.

No laughing matter

From Professor Emeritus A. R. Kira

Sir, Your feature article (November 22) on the subject of the Crystal Palace fire 50 years ago should really discredit the claim of the Press to sit in judgment on politicians and others.

I lived a few hundred yards below the west tower and saw approach roads for fire engines blocked by crowds of joking sightseers who had seen the flames from great distances. Now we have David Howarth telling us how deliriously happy Richard Dimbleby was and what fun the broadcasters had. Is this really the attitude of journalists to disasters which affect other people?

Yours truly,
ALBERT KIRALFY,
King's College London (KQC),
Faculty of Laws,
Strand, WC2,
November 22.

ON THIS DAY

NOVEMBER 28 1840

Acre, the Syrian port heroically defended by Sir Sidney Smith against the French in the Napoleonic wars, was again under attack, this time from a predominantly British Allied fleet. The capture of the city drove out the Egyptians who, under Ibrahim Pasha, had occupied it since 1832 and restored it to the Turks.

THE CAPTURE OF ST JEAN D'ACRE

(From the *Malta Times*).
MALTA, Nov. 15, 1840

The Phoenix steam-frigate arrived on Thursday evening last, bringing the momentous intelligence of the capture of St Jean d'Acre — the far-famed fortress of the Levant — by the combined fleets of the Allies. The action is the most splendid of all the recent naval achievements in these seas, demonstrating to the staggering faith of the politicians of Europe that nothing can withstand British genius and valour. Vainly have the French incendiaries defied the British naval forces to take the "great fort of the East"; for, whilst they pour out their bitter invectives, and sing their savage war-whoop of nationality, a council of war is formed to attack these redoubts which are so easily stormed in a moment, and in another St Jean d'Acre is a heap of smoking ruins, dyed with the profuse blood of the enemy!

We cannot pass by the splendid action of Admiral Stopford — an action which has covered the Admiral with immortal honour. It was Admiral Sir Robert Stopford who left his flagship for the Phoenix — who directed the attack — who fired the first shot upon the devoted fortress, who reared the formidable batteries, and under the bristling cannon (the labours and accumulations of ages) stood up with coolness, daring, unshaken courage, and commanded the whole operation...

The result of this grand action is 3,000 prisoners, an immense quantity of war-like stores, accumulated for years in this celebrated fortress, and possession of the entire coast of Syria...

We refer our readers for the details of this splendid achievement to our correspondents' communications from the scene of action.

At a quarter past two o'clock the batteries to the south opened on the Castor, as she most gallantly, and to the admiration of the whole fleet, took up her station within about 700 yards of the batteries... At 26 minutes past four, the action being at its height, a terrific explosion took place in the town, which for a time wholly concealed it and the southern division from view; its appearance was truly awful, and I can compare it to nothing but as if a huge yaw tree had suddenly been consumed by the devoted town — it hung for many minutes a mighty pall over those hundreds it had hurled into eternity, and then slowly, owing to the lightness of the wind, drifted to the southward.

It proved to be the explosion of the principal magazine of the place, one-third of which it has destroyed, and, from a quarter regiment having been quartered in a khan immediately adjoining, it is supposed from 1,500 to 1,700 soldiers perished. In the ruins, besides a number of camels, horses, bullocks, and donkeys, lay the fearful event the fire from the southern batteries nearly ceased, but the western one still kept it up with animation, and was answered broadcast with redoubled vigour and tremendous effect. Shortly before 5 the Admiral made the signal to discontinue the engagement... This sudden silence, immediately succeeding such a dining uproar, had a very peculiar effect... Admiral Walker made one or two unsuccessful attempts to land some spies; but happily about 30 minutes after 1 a.m. a small boat came off from the captain of the port, to say that the Egyptians were leaving the town, and that if a party was landed at the water-gate it would be found open: this was of course immediately done, and 300 Turks and a party of Austrian marines took unopposed possession at daylight...

Lost in the post

From Dr S. Roy-Chowdhury

Sir, Is republicanism coming to the United Kingdom by the front door, albeit through the actions of Government agencies?

Otherwise why, pray, has the Post Office erased the Sovereign's head from its latest aerogramme? Never since the inception of the penny black, I presume, has this happened.

Yours etc,
SANJOY ROY-CHOWDHURY,
Nirala,
90 Links Avenue,
Gidea Park, Essex,
November 17.

Compulsive viewing?

From Miss Lynette Fenley

Sir, I am perhaps more fortunate than Mr Michael Hopkins (November 24). I have never owned a television set, and "No television" written across the enquiry form has been sufficient at intervals over the last ten years to keep the licensing authorities at bay.

However, since Mr Hopkins and I, together with others of like mind, represent only 2 per cent of all households in this country (or some 39,000-odd homes) we must clearly be an irritation to those whose professional occupation it is to ensure that we have all paid up.

Yours faithfully,
LYNETTE FENLEY,
44 Narbonne Avenue, SW4,
November 24.

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COURT AND SOCIAL

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BUCKINGHAM PALACE

November 27: The Queen arrived at Winchester Station in the Royal Train this morning and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Hampshire (Lieutenant-Colonel Sir James Scott, Bt).

The Queen, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Green Jackets, accompanied by Princess Alexandra, the Hon Mrs Angus Ogilvy, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, The Light Infantry, subsequently opened the new Light Division Depot at Flowerdown. Having been received at Sir John Moore Barracks by the Colonel-Commandant, The Light Division (Lieutenant-General Sir David Moseley), Her Majesty opened the Barracks and unveiled a commemorative plaque.

Afterwards, The Queen, escorted by the Commanding Officer Light Division Depot (Lieutenant-Colonel R. O'M Dwyer), visited the Barracks Wing and later met members of the 43rd and 52nd Association, the King's Royal Rifle Corps Association and the Rifle Brigade Association.

Her Majesty then visited the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and, with Princess Alexandra, the Hon Mrs Angus Ogilvy, honoured the Colonel-Commandant with her presence at luncheon in the Officers' Mess.

The Queen this afternoon opened the new Nightingale Wing of the Royal Hampshire County Hospital.

Having been received by the Chairman of Wessex Regional Health Authority (Professor Sir Bryan Thwaites), Her Majesty viewed an exhibition portraying the Hospital's history, opened the Nightingale Wing and unveiled a commemorative plaque.

The Queen, escorted by the Chairman of the Winchester Health Authority (the Lord Northbrook), toured the Departments and Wards in the new building and met hospital staff.

The Hon Mary Morrison, Mr Robert Follows and Lieutenant-Commander Timothy Lawrence, RN, were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President of the National Playing Fields Association, this morning presented the 1986 President's Certificate at Buckingham Palace.

His Royal Highness, Senior Fellow of the Fellowship of Engineering, presented the 1986 MacRobert Award at Buckingham Palace.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Trustee, attended Reception at St James's Palace for young people who have reached the Gold Standard in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

His Royal Highness, President of the Institute of Sports Sponsorship, this afternoon attended the Annual General Meeting of the Institute at Buckingham Palace.

The Duke of Edinburgh this evening attended the 40th Anniversary Dinner of the Cranfield Institute of Technology at Cranfield where His Royal Highness was received by the Chancellor of the Institute (the Lord Kings Norton).

Major Rowan Jackson, RM, was in attendance.

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips this morning at Bridge Water opened and toured the first Sheltered/Special Sheltered Housing Scheme to be built by Sedgemoor District Council.

Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Somerset (Lieutenant-Colonel Walter Luttrell)

and the Chairman of the Council (Councillor W.D. Roach).

Afterwards, The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips was entertained at luncheon at Sedgemoor Town Hall.

In the afternoon Her Royal Highness opened the new indoor Riding Arena at Sandhill Park Hospital, Bishop's Lydeard, Taunton.

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips toured the Arena, escorted by the Chairman of the Somerset Charitable Trust (Mr Anthony Vaughan Read).

Mrs Richard Carew Pole was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE November 27: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this morning visited the York Street Hospital, the St Marylebone Housing Association.

Mrs Patrick Campbell-Preston and Sir Alastair Aird were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE November 27: The Prince of Wales this morning launched the Inner Cities Trust and addressed the Building Communities Conference at the Astoria Theatre, 157 Charing Cross Road, WC2.

Sir John Riddell, Bt, and Mr Humphrey Mews were in attendance.

The Prince of Wales, Honorary Air Commodore, Royal Air Force Brandy, this afternoon received Group Captain D.R.H. McGregor upon relinquishing command of the Station and Group Captain R.C. Humphreys upon assuming command.

The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince of Wales Business Trust, accompanied by The Princess of Wales, this evening attended a dinner, to inaugurate The Prince's Trust Youth Business Appeal, at the Mansion House.

Mrs George West, Sir John Riddell, Bt, and the Hon Rupert Fairfax were in attendance.

The Princess of Wales this afternoon presented the Awards for Westminster City Council's Anti-Drug Campaign at the Rock Garden Restaurant, The Piazza, Covent Garden, WC2.

Mrs Max Pike and Lieutenant-Commander Richard Aylard, RN, were in attendance.

The Princess of Wales, President, Wales Craft Council, this afternoon received Mr Malcolm MacIntyre-Read (Chief Executive of the Council) and members of the Committee.

KENSINGTON PALACE Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief, King's Own Scottish Borderers, today received Lieutenant-Colonel Robin Hull on assuming the appointment as Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion.

The Duke of Gloucester this morning visited Lincoln College of Technology to mark the occasion of the College's Centenary Year and in the afternoon opened the recently restored West Range of St Mary's Guildhall, Lincoln.

His Royal Highness, who travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight, was attended by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon Bland.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were present this evening at a performance of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* at the Westminster Theatre, London SW1.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon Bland and Mrs Michael Wigley were in attendance.

YORK HOUSE November 27: The Duchess of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief, this evening attended the 4th/7th Royal Dragon Guards Annual Officers' Dinner at the Cavalry and Guards Club, London SW1.

Mrs Alan Henderson was in attendance.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S.A. Woodward and Miss C.D. Salisbury
The engagement is announced between Shaun Anthony, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Dennis Woodward, of Clevedon, Bristol, and Camilla, daughter of the Hon Timothy and Mrs Salisbury, of Westminster, London.

Mr R.C.S. Acheson and Miss E.S.B. Bateson
The engagement is announced between Richard Acheson, of Godmanstone, Dorset, twin son of the late Colonel and Mrs Stanley Acheson, and Susan, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Bateson, of Farnham, Surrey.

Mr P.J. Dickinson and Miss A. Evans
The engagement is announced between Philip, youngest son of Mr and Mrs T.E. Dickinson, of Taunton, Somerset, and Alison, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs J.A.F. Evans, of Nunnington, Herefordshire.

Mr R.C. Baker and Miss G.C. Hartley
The engagement is announced between Robert, eldest son of Captain L.J. Baker, read, and Mrs M. Baker, of Gillingham, Kent, and Gillian, only daughter of Mr and Mrs H. Hartley, of West End, Southampton.

Mr M.J. Summers and Miss E.L.S. Thomas
The engagement is announced between Morgan John, second son of Mr J.L. Summers, of Henley House, Woolley, and Mrs J.M. Saunders, of Old Down Farm, Embsay, and Emma Lucinda, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs A.R.S. Thomas, of Hymersford House, East Coker, Somerset.

Mr M.J. Lambert and Miss A.J. Ramsey
The engagement is announced between Michael, youngest son of Mr and Mrs J.B. Lambert, of Lingfield, Surrey, and Amanda, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs H.A. Ramsey, of Pinewood, Emsworth, Hampshire.

Dr R.S. Mackay and Dr R.N. Barlow
The engagement is announced between Robert, eldest son of Professor and Mrs Donald Mackay, of Highway Lane, Keele, Staffordshire, and Rebecca, eldest daughter of Professor Horace Barlow, of Selwyn Gardens, Cambridge, and Mrs Ruth Barlow, of Stangate Avenue, Cambridge.

Mr S. Francis and Miss C.R. Coope
The engagement is announced between Steven, elder son of Mr Richard Francis, of Richmond, and Mrs Beate Francis, of Richmond, and Charlotte, daughter of Mr and Mrs Paul Coope, of Sandbanks, Dorset.

Mr G.C. Hamer and Miss A.N. Gardner
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Mr A.D. McLeish and Miss P.J. Ghaister
The engagement is announced between Alastair, elder son of Mr David McLeish, of Tilford, Surrey, and Mrs Catherine McLeish, of Cranleigh, Surrey, and Pippa, second daughter of Professor and Mrs David Ghaister, of Godalming, Surrey.

Mr J.H. Medlicott and Miss N.J. Connor
The engagement is announced between Hamon, son of Mr and Mrs Edward Medlicott, of Saccotie Park, Herefordshire, and Nancy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Walter Connor, of Manchester, New Hampshire, United States.

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OBITUARY

GENERAL SIR HUGH STOCKWELL

Soldier of courage, authority and resource



General Sir Hugh Stockwell, GCB, KBE, DSO, outstanding soldier, who served a better high point in his career than leading the invasion of Egypt in 1956, died yesterday. He was 83.

His distinguished military career spanned four decades, and he spent most of it as he preferred: commanding troops in the field. His personal handling of the military operation at Suez, bedevilled though it was by a stream of confusing and contradictory instructions from the Government, was technically admirable.

He was approaching the end of his tenure as GOC 1st Corps BAOR when the crisis broke, and he was appointed military commander of the Anglo-French forces which landed at Port Said under General Kitchley.

Stockwell brought with him his corps headquarters from Germany, and arrived in time to take part in the planning operation. It was a complicated assignment as his forces, many of them untrained and ill-equipped for the task, had to be collected from as far apart as Cyprus, Malta, Algeria and Britain. The difficulties were further compounded by the need to avoid unnecessary casualties and destruction of property.

Despite all these handicaps, he brought order to the chaos, and there is little doubt that the operation would have been crowned with success, had it not been called off on orders from London.

Hugh Charles Stockwell was born on June 16, 1903, the son of a soldier who later became chief constable of Colchester. He was educated at Marlborough and the RMC, Sandhurst, from which he was commissioned in 1923 in the Royal

Chicago*	c	7	45	Luzern	c	5	41	Fla de J.	f	29	84	Wofaton	c	14	57
Ch'otouch	f	15	58	Moskva	s	1	34	Ryech	s	28	73	Zurich	s	7	48

STOCK MARKET REPORT

MEPC shares advance 7.5p after further bid speculation

By Michael Clark and Carol Leonard

MEPC, Britain's second biggest property group, was again the centre of intense bid speculation yesterday after a late flurry of activity after hours.

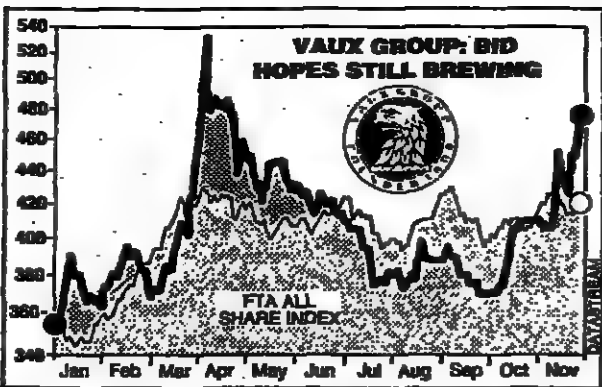
The shares advanced 7.5p to 246.5p amid whispers that a mystery predator had managed to complete the arrangements for the financing of a bid of 400p a share with various City banks. That would value the entire group at almost £1 billion.

MEPC has attracted bid speculation in the past with its name being linked to both Trafalgar House and rival Land Securities. Dealers were being careful not to list the names of any likely suitors yesterday and a spokesman for the company said: "We can't comment on any rumours."

Last year MEPC hit the takeover trail itself with the purchase of English Property Corp, but just recently has run into trouble with the City of London planners over the proposed redevelopment of its Lee House site in London Wall.

The rest of the equity market spent another quiet session with most investors' spare cash tied up in the £5.6 billion British Gas flotation. Turnover was again down to a trickle after brokers managed to complete the computerized buying and selling program initiated by the Post Office Pension Fund on Wednesday.

Investors also had to contend with continuing confu-



Glaxo 10p to 912p after a line of 657,000 shares went through the market at 910p. Cable & Wireless 4p to 326p, and Hawker Siddeley 3p to 438p.

Four stocks made their stock market debut yesterday, with Geest, the banana importer going to a 29p premium over the 125p offer price, and Gwent, the USM London estate agency, more than doubling its 16p placing price to close at 40p. Miles Sam, the underwear company, stuck at its placing price of 105p and Small closed at 140p, a penny below its 141p placing price.

Virgin, the record group, was still trading below its 140p striking price, at 136p and partly-paid British Gas shares slipped back to 59p on the unofficial grey market.

Vaux Group, the independent brewer which has been shrouded in take-over speculation for the past couple of weeks, climbed a further 15p to 488p, but still has some way to go before reaching its peak for the year of 540p.

The predatory name on everyone's lips yesterday was A B Foods, which has been sitting on an £800 million cash

trapped to the brewing area because they tendered unsuccessfully for Courage, and they could certainly afford it."

As well as its brewing activities, Vaux owns the 32-strong chain of Swallow hotels, predominantly in the North-east, but with one hotel in London.

A B Foods shares were unchanged at 330p.

Most other brewers had a negative day. Allied Lyons slipped 6p to 307p, Devenish 6p to 203p and Guinness 5p to 326p.

Results from BPR, the plaster board group, duly impressed the market and lifted the company's shares 25p to 548p, just 2p below its high for the year. Analysts had been looking for profits of £55 million at the half-way stage, but the company surpassed all forecasts by revealing an increase of more than 50 per cent to £69 million. Analysts are now up-grading their forecasts for the year to around £140 million.

English China Clay, the construction and industrial materials manufacturer, which publishes its £132 million offer document for Bryant Holdings today, firmed 5p to 319p. But Bryant is still holding up at around 149p, almost 50 per cent ahead of the 100p a share bid. Dealers say that if ECC is to win, it will have to increase the stakes.

Another construction group, CH Beazer, firmed 5p to 194p, ahead of its annual meeting today. The chairman, Mr Brian Beazer, is expected to make confident noises about current trading and about Gifford Hill, the Dallas-based cement company it bought for £190 million a couple of months ago.

Pearsons, the prestigious Lazard merchant bank to Financial Times and Chateau Latour conglomerate, returned to the bid limelight, jumping 21p to 594p on talk that Mr Li Kashing, who heads up the Hong Kong trading group Hutchison Whampoa, has been buying a few more shares over the past couple of days, to add to the near 5 per cent stake he already owns.

Chairman Lord Blakenham says he has not yet been notified of any such increase and says: "I know of no reason for the increase in the share price."

He also says that market talk that the company is in the process of raising \$2 billion in Far East "is not true."

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

The Mercury drops to a disturbing level

Cassandras of the Big Bang are gloating. First results from Mercury International Group since the merger of its main component parts last April are unlikely to spread happiness among those with a financial interest in the City's deregulated securities markets. On the securities side profits were pretty dismal in contrast with figures from the more traditional merchant banking business.

The problem, admitted chief executive, David Scholey, was poor trading in difficult markets. He puts this down to the confusion and disruption of the period before October 27 when the players' eyes were distracted from the ball. There were also competitors playing to the new rules before home teams like Mercury were allowed to, and spoiled their business.

The serious question is if Mercury faced these problems before Big Bang how well will it cope with even greater confusion in the post Big Bang world?

Mr Scholey does not offer much in the way of comfort in his assessment of the next six months. Costs related to securities activities will carry on rising. While activity and opportunities in the securities markets may be expanding, so also is the volatility of earnings.

There is a hint that shareholders should brace themselves for more bumps ahead, with a warning of continued turbulence in financial markets and the need for Mercury to take a long term rather than a short term view. Mercury insists that its securities business (even its agency broking) is growing — but that is not to say that it is profitable.

On this evidence, the stock market was right to treat cautiously companies with significant Big Bang exposure. Nevertheless, it would also be short-sighted not to recognise that several of the major financial conglomerates have concentrations of considerable talent, and understand the risks they are taking. There is no better hand at the game than David Scholey and teams with the names of Warburg, Akroyd and Rowe & Pitman do not become poor teams overnight.

The joker in Mercury's pack is Saul Steinberg who has an enlarged stake in the company and undefined intentions. Mr Steinberg not doubt has mixed feelings about the latest figures. On the one hand they add force to his argument that Mercury's management are doing nothing to enhance the group's share value. On the other hand, he can see the difficulties Mercury faces, in spades. For its part Mercury can only sit and wait for Saul's next move.

Moves at the Noble House

The relationship of Jardine Matheson with Hong Kong has been as emotionally close over the years as might be expected of any group which has had such a formative influence on an entire, thriving economy. Recent frictions have centred principally on the controlling families' understandable priority of preserving their own interests.

This made them distinctly unpopular, for instance, when they transferred domicile abroad at the depth of local depression before the Anglo-Chinese agreement made the departing Crown colony a much-favoured destination for international investment. The collapse of the Hong Kong property market around that time was encapsulated in the travails of Hong Kong Land, Jardine's principal offshoot and associate, which took long and painful surgery to restore to its prime position among the world's property companies.

Today, as in a previous boom, the greatest corporate threat to the Jardine empire comes from being taken over. The main local contenders are, as once before, Li Kashing and Sir Yuekok Pao, who must see the greatest of the old British hong, "Noble House" itself, as the ultimate symbolic prize. But international money, most immediately from Australia, is eyeing Jardine from a different direction.

The Keswick family has now moved decisively to repair its corporate financial defences, which were instantly erected via cross-holdings during the last takeover scare but had to be partly dismantled during the subsequent time of Hong Kong Land's trial.

The proposed new structure, which seems to owe something to the yet more tangled arrangements of the South African Oppenheimer Anglo American/De Beers empire, turns Jardine Securities into a new master intermediate holding company with a function justly described in the name Jardine Strategic Holdings. The family would control almost half of this, which is about as much protection as can now be managed. Provided only that the group can resist attack while it is erecting its new defences, it will have resolved one of Hong Kong's greatest financial uncertainties.

Given that all-important proviso, it still remains to be seen how far the present taipan Simon Keswick will have tied himself up in the process and thereby restricted his room for manoeuvre in a fast-changing Hong Kong corporate scene.

It is hard to envisage any financial arrangement being permanent in the current ferment of Hong Kong. If there is one unchanging force, it is appropriate that it should be Jardine, even though its once-overwhelming influence has gone for ever.

ALPHA STOCKS									
These prices are as at 6.45pm									
1986	High	Low	Company	Price	Offer	Ch/gp	%	Vol	P/E
303 883	180	180	Alfred Lyons	303	308	-5	-1.6	4.7	14.0
174 126	277	277	ASDA/AFI	180	184	+1	+0.6	8.0	18.6
401 277	282	282	BTR	277	282	-5	-1.8	3.6	18.6
491 361	455	455	BAI	450	455	+5	+1.1	14.4	4.1
572 411	465	465	Barrat	460	470	-10	-2.2	1.9	11.9
640 690	740	740	Bell	730	740	-10	-1.4	3.0	18.6
450 386	415	420	Beocham	415	420	+5	+1.2	17.1	4.1
725 585	600	600	Blue Circle	595	600	+5	+0.8	20.0	4.8
380 580	600	600	BOC	595	600	+5	+0.8	14.3	4.8
280 170	230	230	Boots	225	230	+5	+2.2	10.4	4.8
400 428	490	490	Br Pensions	485	490	+5	+1.0	23.4	4.7
708 590	670	670	Br Petroleum	665	670	+5	+0.7	48.5	7.2
490 177	180	180	Br Telecom	175	180	+5	+2.9	10.7	6.4
125 68	148	148	Br Travel	145	150	-5	-3.4	9.9	0.2
354 256	280	280	Burton	275	280	+5	+1.8	8.1	14.9
368 277	330	330	Castle & Whitehead	325	330	+5	+1.5	7.2	12.2
158 148	170	170	Cadbury Schweppes	165	170	+5	+3.0	14.3	4.8
326 257	280	280	Cam	275	280	+5	+1.8	17.4	1.7
704 409	450	450	Carnegie	445	450	+5	+1.1	36.0	3.2
300 252	280	280	Cassidy	275	280	+5	+1.8	10.2	8.1
480 174	200	200	Chas & Co	195	200	+5	+2.6	12.5	1.4
630 408	450	450	Fluoro	445	450	+5	+1.1	8.4	1.5
584 701	800	800	Gan Accident	795	800	+5	+0.6	34.5	4.3
225 128	140	140	GEC	135	140	+5	+3.7	6.1	3.0
115 751	800	800	Globe	795	800	+5	+0.6	20.0	2.2
4601 328	450	450	Grand Met	445	450	+5	+1.1	19.3	2.9
115 721	800	800	HA	795	800	+5	+0.6	30.0	3.0
954 730	800	800	GNP	795	800	+5	+0.6	46.5	8.8
385 275	300	300	GNP	295	300	+5	+1.7	7.5	0.6
385 275	300	300	GNP	295	300	+5	+1.7	10.3	2.3
215 141	160	160	Heron	155	160	+5	+3.2	8.7	2.8
623 403	435	435	Hawker Siddeley	430	435	+5	+1.2	21.4	4.3

Storm over Electra fund management

By Lawrence Lever

A bitter dispute has broken out at Electra Investment Trust over the management of one of its venture capital funds.

A confidential memorandum passed to *The Times* over the weekend is heavily critical of Electra for its "incompetence" in its handling of investments made in two unquoted companies.

The memorandum, written by Mr Brian Johnson, a consultant called in by Electra to manage two companies in its Electra Risk Capital I fund (Eric I) and dated November 12, 1985, was sent to Mr Michael Stoddart, chairman of Electra, Mr Michael Bentley, deputy chairman, and Mr Clive Clague, an Electra main board director.

Eric I raised £8.6 million in 1981, investing it in 32 companies. The value of the fund had plunged as 21 of the companies have either gone into receivership or been sold for a nominal amount.

Mr Johnson's memorandum focuses on Electra's investment in Independent Computer Engineering (Ice) — the latest Eric I fund casualty, which went into receivership on October 30. Electra invested £500,000 in this company through Eric I and £250,000 through a later venture capital fund. Both investments have had to be written off.

Electra, with the Globe Investment Trust, also provided loans to Ice, believed to be in the region of £750,000.

Mr Johnson says in the memorandum that a report on Ice which Electra commissioned from him "was most damning of Electra's role in controlling Ice." Mr Johnson, a former managing director of NMW Computers, accuses Electra in the memorandum of failing to arrange "an orderly close down" in the event of liquidation.

He also criticizes Electra for not checking Ice's accounts and for not fully investigating Ice's financial position before calling in the receiver.

"I can only express my dismay that Electra behaved in such a cavalier manner," he says.

Mr Clague said yesterday: "The story of Ice is a sad and unhappy one. There are two sides to the story, but we don't want to get publicly involved. We do not make it a practice of pulling the plug on our investments."

Mr Johnson yesterday declined to comment on the memorandum.

Oxford team wins £25,000 prize for super magnets

Britain's highest award for innovative engineering and technology, the £25,000-McRobert Award, was presented in London yesterday, by the Duke of Edinburgh to three men from the Oxford Instruments Group.

The winners were: Mr John Woodgate, executive director, Mr Bill Proctor, a physicist and engineering director, and Mr Ian McDougall, a metallurgist, who joined the group in 1979, to help Mr Proctor build the first magnet for whole-body scanning.

The three men head teams developing superconducting magnets. The magnets are used mainly for nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy and magnetic resonance imaging.

Oxford Instruments pioneered the magnets. It has received orders worth £250 million, mostly for export markets.

The award was set up in 1968 to honour individuals or small teams making an outstanding innovative development in engineering or the physical technologies, with emphasis on the contribution that the development had made to Britain's prosperity.

Previous awards have been made for the superstructure of the Severn Bridge, the longest



Winners: John Woodgate (left) Bill Proctor, Ian McDougall

Lead and zinc prices 'to slow'

By Richard Leader

The sharp advances seen in zinc and lead prices on the London Metal Exchange (LME) this year are unlikely to be repeated in 1987, according to Shearson Lehman Brothers, the metal trading firm.

Both metals have been driven higher this year by supply disruptions, such as the one at the Broken Hill mines in Australia, where an industrial dispute halted production of lead and zinc for almost two months and forced the closure of the Port Pirie smelter.

Looking at lead, Shearson analyst, Mr Stephen Briggs, predicts that a revival of mine production in 1987 will lead to a reduction in stocks of just 10,000 tonnes, compared with an estimated 95,000 tonnes shortfall in 1986.

"Now that most of the supply disruptions have either been resolved or discounted, we believe that there are no longer strong long-term reasons for lead to move considerably higher," he said.

However, Western consumption, of which nearly 60 per cent comes from car batteries, should continue to grow slowly over the next two years. Mr Briggs is forecasting an average LME cash price of £305 a tonne next year, below the current £337 price.

For zinc, Mr Briggs is forecasting a small market surplus in 1987 after a 160,000 tonne deficit this year, with a rise in non-communist demand partially offset by a continued decline in exports to China. Production from mines and secondary sources, assuming an absence of strikes and disruptions, is likely to reach a record 5.05 million tonnes, around 4.8 per cent up on this year.

"There is little reason to expect much overall price strength for next year as a whole (unless there is) significant rationalization of capacity or further unpredictable disruption," the report said.

Shearson estimates that cash prices should average £535 a tonne next year. Prices stand around this level at present, having fallen back from a year's peak of £632 in early October.

The Bowring Bowl. Which way on December 9?

Twickenham

Oxford Cambridge

The Varsity Match

Oxford v Cambridge, Twickenham, December 9 at 2.00pm

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Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements, on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	British	Industrials A-D	
2	County F	Property	
3	Heath D	Industrials E-K	
4	Meyer Ltd	Building/Roads	
5	Harris Quincey	Property	
6	Bank of Scotland	Bank/Discount	
7	Ural Leasing	Electricals	
8	Hayworth Ceramic	Industrials E-K	
9	St Land	Property	
10	Case	Electricals	
11	NMC Inv	Industrials L-R	
12	Anglo	Food	
13	Blackley	Building/Roads	
14	Williams Hodge	Industrials S-Z	
15	Radi & Tompkins	Property	
16	Bauer (CH)	Industrials A-D	
17	PE International	Electricals	
18	TI	Industrials S-Z	
19	Pittington	Industrials L-R	
20	Land Securities	Property	
21	Rail Elex	Electricals	
22	Develand (I A)	Electricals	
23	Stirling Int	Industrials S-Z	
24	Castors A	Drugs/Stores	
25	Lloyds	Bank/Discount	
26	Hawker Siddeley	Industrials E-K	
27	Wolfrum & D	Breweries	
28	Beamer	Industrials A-D	
29	Metal Closure	Industrials L-R	
30	Northampton Brick	Building/Roads	
31	Aspic Paper	Paper/Print/Adv	
32	Cable & Wireless	Electricals	
33	BET Ord	Industrials A-D	
34	Alumar	Industrials A-D	
35	Gr Portland	Property	
36	Renold	Industrials L-R	
37	Tarmac	Building/Roads	
38	Aspic Newspaper	Newspaper/Pub	
39	Swearing Stone	Drugs/Stores	
40	Asmard	Electricals	
41	Colas (A)	Industrials A-D	
42	Brownwood	Industrials A-D	
43	Lovell (VI)	Building/Roads	
44	Glen	Industrials E-K	

Please take account of any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS		
High	Low	Price

SHORTS (Under Five Years)		
High	Low	Price

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS		
High	Low	Price

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS		
High	Low	Price

UNDATED		
High	Low	Price

INDEX-LINKED		
High	Low	Price

BANKS DISCOUNT HP		
High	Low	Price

ELECTRICALS		
High	Low	Price

CINEMAS AND TV		
High	Low	Price

HOTELS AND CATERERS		
High	Low	Price

INDUSTRIALS A-D		
High	Low	Price

DRAPERY AND STORES		
High	Low	Price

MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT		
High	Low	Price

SHOES AND LEATHER		
High	Low	Price

TEXTILES		
High	Low	Price

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS		
High	Low	Price

OIL		
High	Low	Price

TOBACCO		
High	Low	Price

FINANCE AND LAND		
High	Low	Price

FOODS		
High	Low	Price

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS		
High	Low	Price

BREWERY		
High	Low	Price

BUILDINGS AND ROADS		
High	Low	Price

Equities mark time

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began Monday. Dealings end December 5. \$Contango day December 8. Settlement day December 15.
\$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Where stocks have only one price quoted, these are middle prices taken daily at 5pm. Yield, change and P/E ratio are calculated on the middle price.

No.	Company	Price	Yield	Change	P/E
1	British	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
2	County F	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
3	Heath D	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
4	Meyer Ltd	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
5	Harris Quincey	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
6	Bank of Scotland	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
7	Ural Leasing	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
8	Hayworth Ceramic	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
9	St Land	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
10	Case	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
11	NMC Inv	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
12	Anglo	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
13	Blackley	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
14	Williams Hodge	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
15	Radi & Tompkins	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
16	Bauer (CH)	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
17	PE International	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
18	TI	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
19	Pittington	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
20	Land Securities	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
21	Rail Elex	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
22	Develand (I A)	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
23	Stirling Int	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
24	Castors A	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
25	Lloyds	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
26	Hawker Siddeley	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
27	Wolfrum & D	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
28	Beamer	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
29	Metal Closure	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
30	Northampton Brick	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
31	Aspic Paper	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
32	Cable & Wireless	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
33	BET Ord	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
34	Alumar	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
35	Gr Portland	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
36	Renold	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
37	Tarmac	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
38	Aspic Newspaper	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
39	Swearing Stone	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
40	Asmard	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
41	Colas (A)	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
42	Brownwood	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
43	Lovell (VI)	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
44	Glen	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0

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12	Anglo	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
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18	TI	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
19	Pittington	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
20	Land Securities	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
21	Rail Elex	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
22	Develand (I A)	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
23	Stirling Int	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
24	Castors A	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
25	Lloyds	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
26	Hawker Siddeley	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
27	Wolfrum & D	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
28	Beamer	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
29	Metal Closure	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
30	Northampton Brick	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
31	Aspic Paper	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
32	Cable & Wireless	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
33	BET Ord	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
34	Alumar	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
35	Gr Portland	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
36	Renold	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
37	Tarmac	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
38	Aspic Newspaper	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
39	Swearing Stone	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
40	Asmard	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
41	Colas (A)	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
42	Brownwood	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
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22	Develand (I A)	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
23	Stirling Int	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
24	Castors A	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
25	Lloyds	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
26	Hawker Siddeley	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
27	Wolfrum & D	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
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34	Alumar	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
35	Gr Portland	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
36	Renold	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
37	Tarmac	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
38	Aspic Newspaper	100.00	4.5	0.00	15.0
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These stocks have only one price quoted, these are middle prices taken daily at 5pm. Yield, change and P/E ratio are calculated on the middle price

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delivery

Motoring by Clifford Webb

GTA gives Renault a racier image

Renault's involvement in Formula One grand prix racing has not changed the average British motorist's view of their cars. They are still seen as run-of-the-mill family transport. The answer, of course, is that until recently the marque lacked an eye-catching, high performance road model like Porsche and Lotus to link the company's road and track images.

The pity is that with the exciting new Renault GTA V6 Turbo now making its appearance



Vital Statistics

Model: Renault GTA V6 Turbo
Price: £23,635
Engine: 2458 cc V6 alloy turbo
Performance: 0 to 62 mph 7 secs, max speed 155 mph.
Official consumption: Urban 22.1 mpg, 56 mph 44.1 mpg, and 75 mph 34.9 mpg.
Length: 14.2 feet.
Insurance: Group 8.

ance here, the French group has withdrawn from Formula One. The GTA attracts attention everywhere with its aggressively styled, low slung body, flared wheel arches and big fat tyres all promising power and speed.

It is in fact the fastest production Renault to date with a top speed of 155 mph and a 0 to 62 mph time of

seven seconds. A drag coefficient of only 0.28 together with a very small frontal area enable Renault to claim the lowest air resistance of any production car in the world. Slowness through the air is a major factor in its remarkably frugal fuel consumption. I returned 28 mpg on a 280-mile motorway trip including entering and leaving congested central London.

The 2.5 litre V6 all-alloy engine is mounted in the rear of the laminated polyester body behind a five-speed transaxle. It is a developed version of the engine built at Douvrin and shared with a number of other car manufac-



Hispano-Suiza Tourer: expected to fetch £150,000

ture. In its earlier forms it was not particularly happy, tending to become thrashy and run out of breath when pushed hard. The GTA version had none of these shortcomings. It delivered its 200 bhp with surprising smoothness and flexibility for a turbo-charged engine.

The GTA is assembled by Renault's Alpine subsidiary at Dieppe and bears some resemblance to the 15-year-old Alpine A310 it replaces. That car was cramped and rather irritating to drive. The GTA still retains the semi-reclined driving position but has much more elbow room. The front seats give excellent all-round

support and controls fall readily to hand. A car of this type is essentially a high speed cruiser designed to burn-up motorway miles for hour after hour. It does that job well with two small reservations. At high speed, there is a slight vagueness about straight line steering and like all rear-engine cars, it is susceptible to side winds. An unusual windscreen wiper layout with the two blades almost clashing in the centre of the screen was apparently developed for maximum efficiency at high speed. Together with my passenger, I found it a constant distraction.

Spanish sales drive gains momentum

The fastest growing imported car business in Britain is SEAT, the Spanish group which is now 51 per cent owned by Volkswagen. SEAT began selling here just a year ago and already holds 3 per cent of the market with an estimated 6,200 sales this year. Douglas Clark, managing director of SEAT Concessions UK, plans to increase that to over 10,000 next year.

His model range has just been extended to include five-door versions of the Ibiza hatchback with a choice of 1.2 or 1.5 litre Porsche-designed engine. Prices start at £4,746—the same price bracket as the Ford Fiesta. But SEAT is aiming higher—at the market-leading Ford Escort.

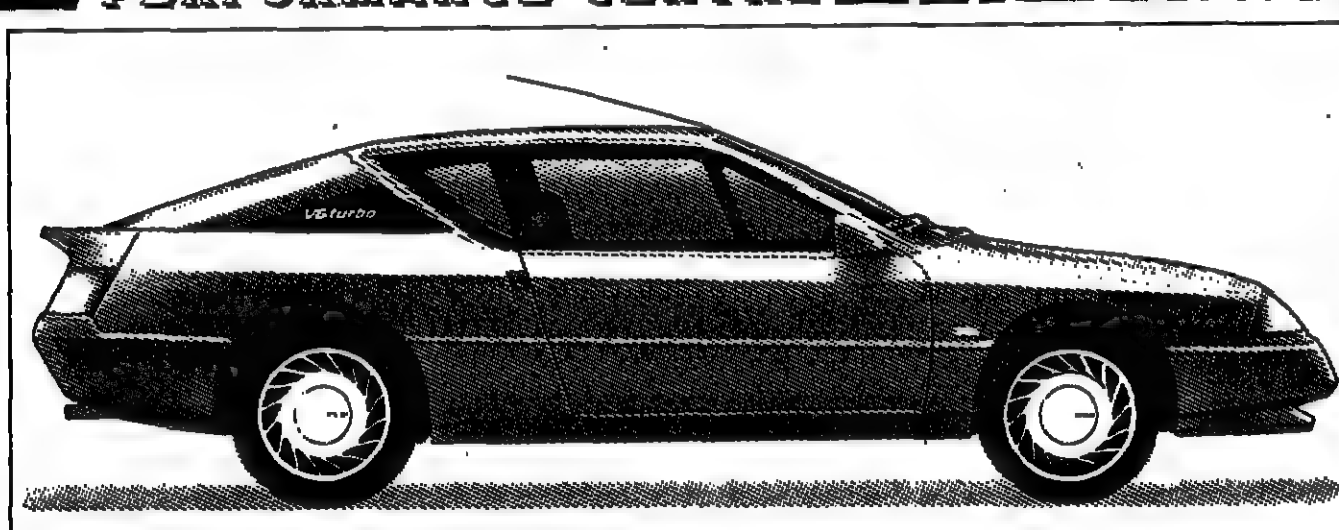
Early Ibiza were plagued by carburettor problems, but modifications seem to have solved the problem. I drove both versions of the new five-door model for nearly 300 miles this week and found them considerably improved.

Classical collection comes to the market

Sotieby's has assembled an impressive collection of early and classic cars, bicycles and general automobiles for sale at the Honourable Artillery Company, City Road, London on Monday. The star of the show for most people will be the rare 1931/34 Hispano-Suiza J.12 9/16 litre, two-seater tourer which is expected to fetch a cool £150,000. It has been on display at the Midland Motor Museum and is believed to be the only representative of the model surviving in Britain.

But the car I would love to own is either of the two 1925/26 Type 35 Grand Prix supercharged Bugattis. As the beautifully-produced catalogue says: "Few cars in history have developed around them the mystique of the marque Bugatti." The ear-shattering exhaust note and

RENAULT PERFORMANCE CENTRE



TEST DRIVE THE NEW RENAULT GTA AT THESE RENAULT PERFORMANCE CENTRES.

AVON Bristol:
City Motors (Bristol) Ltd, Church Rd, Lawrence Hill, BS59 1LU.
Contact: Guyne Townsend on (0272) 559074.
And Marlborough Street, BS1 3NX.
Contact: Phillip Roberts on (0272) 421815

BERKSHIRE Newbury:
Wheeler's (Newbury) Ltd, London Road, RG13 1BB.
Contact: Mike Gratton on (0635) 41020.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE Cambridge:
Wests Garage (Cambridge) Ltd, 217 Newmarket Rd, CB5 8HD.
Contact: Ian Davidson on (0223) 351616

DORSET Bournemouth:
Winton Garage, 41-47 Alma Road, Winton, BH9 1AB.
Contact: Laurence Hardy on (0202) 526501.

ESSEX Colchester:
Windsor Auto Sales, 74-78 Military Road, CO1 2AN.
Contact: Melvyn Pennell on (0206) 577295.

GREATER MANCHESTER Manchester:
Renault UK Ltd, Manchester Branch, Blackfriars Rd, M3 7FT.
Contact: Gary Austin on 061-832 6121.

HAMPSHIRE Portsmouth:
Liningtons (Portsmouth) Ltd, 128 Milton Rd, PO4 8PW.
Contact: Mark Dierken on (0705) 815151.

KENT Tunbridge Wells:
Merchants, The Spa Garage, Langton Road, TN4 8XH.
Contact: Brett Walker on (0892) 39466.

LONDON W3:
Renault UK Ltd, London Branch, Concord Road, W3 0RZ.
Contact: John Bland on 01-992 5544.
And WC2: St. Martins Lane, WC2N 4AB.
Contact: Mike Mitchell on 01-836 3588.

SW3: Roundabout, Colebrook Court Garage, Sloane Avenue, Chelsea SW3 3DJ.
Contact: Alan Weston on 01-581 3427.

SW19: Raddourne Racing (Wimbledon), 213/217 The Broadway, Wimbledon SW19 1NL.
Contact: Peter Holmes on 01-540 9991.

MIDDLESEX Enfield:
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RACING

Seasoned Simon Legree should have the edge over Fitzgerald's raider

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Following that heartening display at Wincanton 15 days ago when he finished third in the Silver Buck Handicap Chase, Simon Legree is napped to win the Bigmore Handicap Chase at Sandown Park this afternoon.

Much as I admire the Jimmy Fitzgerald-trained Bucko, his principal rival today, four factors persuade me to make Simon Legree the day's best bet.

First, the form of that Wincanton race has been upheld at the most competitive level since thanks to Broadbeath's fine win in the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Newbury last Saturday.

Second, Simon Legree was having his first race of the season at Wincanton and I formed the impression that day that he would benefit from it.

Third, and every bit as important, Simon Legree will be racing over only 2½ miles again today and that was the distance over which he won his three races, at Lingfield Park, Cheltenham and Wetherby, last season. In direct contrast, his Wincanton

race was over three miles and a furlong and in hindsight that was arguably too far for him.

Finally, Simon Legree is a seasoned campaigner who should be in his element at Sandown where the nature and positioning of the fences combine to make it one of the hardest steepchasing courses in the country.

Bucko, who has been dogged by leg trouble for the past two seasons after winning the Philip Cornes final over hurdles, clearly made a deep impression upon those who watched him win at Haydock Park ten days ago.

But the fact remains this will be only his third steepchase and around Sandown I prefer a horse with Simon Legree's experience even at a difference of 20lb.

Neither Chatterback nor Sign Again raced last season, while Kyoto, the only other runner, did nothing to advance his claims at Newbury last Saturday when he was pulled up in his first race of the season.

If form at this level means anything at all, the Sunley Builds Novices' Hurdle ought

to be won by Teletrader who beat Robin Goodfellow and Skygrange in a most convincing manner at Ascot a fortnight ago. They now meet on the same terms.

Powys, who was fourth in their race, contests the Crownspig Winter Hurdle.

Well that he should go, I still prefer Troy Fair, Corbett Coins and The West Awake with the vote just going to the latter who is certain to have come on as a result of that promising run behind Federal Trooper at Newbury earlier this month.

It is of no little significance that Tim Foster has decided to put blinkers on Port Askaig for the Surrey Racing Handicap Chase. Port Askaig was not so adorned when he finished a remote fourth behind Burnt Oak on his seasonal debut at Newbury but he was wearing them last season when he was beaten only 1½ lengths by Maori Venture at Lingfield.

That was not a bad performance as Maori Venture proved on Saturday by finishing third in the Hennessy and he is preferred to Little Polver and Lucky Vane.



Corbett Coins, relegated to second place after beating Bonanza Boy at Cheltenham, attempts to recoup the losses in the Crownspig Winter Hurdle at Sandown today

Elsworth may rely on Hypnosis as he faces Mecca

David Elsworth has still to decide whether to run Floyd or Hypnosis in tomorrow's Mecca Handicap Hurdle at Sandown Park, for which they are currently joint favourites. "It's my decision, but at the moment I'm probably leaning a bit towards Hypnosis," he said.

The newcomer Spring Philite maintained the fine form of Elsworth's Whinbury stable when landing the first division of the Young Farmers Novices' Hurdle at Wincanton yesterday.

Paul Holley, the 7th-placed, brought his mount to a challenging position in the straight, then pushed her to a battling half-length victory over Black Sheep.

Elsworth, whose charge opened at 5-1 but was returned an enhanced 16-1, said: "She has run green on the flat, but jumped well here. This is the first time she has got her head in front, and I think she's got the ability to win on the flat."

Alcorn, trained by Ron Hodges, made a remarkable return from injury when he went to go chasing yesterday, but he is a favourite to win the Chard Handicap Chase.

He's too big and immature to go chasing yet, but I am sure he'll be a nice horse one day. We will just have to be patient."

Indamelody staying on the right track

Indamelody repeated his recent course success when Steve Smith rode him all the way on the eight-year-old in the Shipston Handicap Chase at Warwick yesterday.

The race developed into a duel over the last three fences, between the 5-4 favourite and Eton Rouge. A good jump at the last enabled Indamelody to retain his advantage, and the top weight won a little more decisively than the 1½-length verdict suggested.

Indamelody is getting his act together as regards his jumping, and Steve has got the hang of him now. It's better to let Indamelody run his own race out in front, and now he's beginning to look a decent horse," his trainer Nick Henderson said.

Temperamental filly Anzi Etti, who either refuses to start or wins, put her foot all the way on White Rose. The forward with a little help from her trainer Martin Pipe and his head man Dennis Dummot to carry Jonathan Lower to a 30-length victory in the Longbridge Conditional Jockeys' Novices' Selling Hurdle.

"We usually get her to start with a tractor at home - so we

SANDOWN PARK

Selections

By Mandarin

1.00 Teletrader, 2.30 The West Awake, 3.00 Port Askaig, 3.30 Bruni Baby.

By Michael Seely

1.00 Teletrader, 1.30 Fireworks Night, 2.00 BUCKO (nap), The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 1.00 TELETRADER.

Going: good to soft

1.00 SUNLEY BUILDS NOVICE HURDLE (25.04.2m) (18 runners)

101	3-12	ROBIN GOODFELLOW (J. Smith) 5-11-8	G. Bradley	51	8-1
102	000-11	SKYGRANGE (J. Smith) 5-11-8	G. Bradley	52	8-1
103	200-11	TELETRADER (J. Smith) 5-11-8	G. Bradley	53	8-1
104	1-0	ARCTIC CHIEF (J. Smith) 5-11-8	G. Bradley	54	8-1
105	000-11	BUFFY PEARL (J. Smith) 5-11-8	G. Bradley	55	8-1
106	000-11	BROOKMOUNT (J. Smith) 5-11-8	G. Bradley	56	8-1
107	1-0	KING KAS (J. Smith) 5-11-8	G. Bradley	57	8-1
108	000-11	LE BODISSEY (J. Smith) 5-11-8	G. Bradley	58	8-1
109	000-11	BROOKMOUNT (J. Smith) 5-11-8	G. Bradley	59	8-1
110	000-11	LE BODISSEY (J. Smith) 5-11-8	G. Bradley	60	8-1
111	000-11	LE BODISSEY (J. Smith) 5-11-8	G. Bradley	61	8-1
112	000-11	LE BODISSEY (J. Smith) 5-11-8	G. Bradley	62	8-1
113	000-11	LE BODISSEY (J. Smith) 5-11-8	G. Bradley	63	8-1
114	000-11	LE BODISSEY (J. Smith) 5-11-8	G. Bradley	64	8-1
115	000-11	LE BODISSEY (J. Smith) 5-11-8	G. Bradley	65	8-1
116	000-11	LE BODISSEY (J. Smith) 5-11-8	G. Bradley	66	8-1
117	000-11	LE BODISSEY (J. Smith) 5-11-8	G. Bradley	67	8-1
118	000-11	LE BODISSEY (J. Smith) 5-11-8	G. Bradley	68	8-1
119	000-11	LE BODISSEY (J. Smith) 5-11-8	G. Bradley	69	8-1
120	000-11	LE BODISSEY (J. Smith) 5-11-8	G. Bradley	70	8-1

FORM TELETRADER (11-8) outclassed impressively from the 2nd last and soon well ahead of all the other runners. SKYGRANGE (11-8) was a close second, but was pulled up in the last. ARCTIC CHIEF (11-8) was a close third, but was pulled up in the last. BUFFY PEARL (11-8) was a close fourth, but was pulled up in the last. BROOKMOUNT (11-8) was a close fifth, but was pulled up in the last. LE BODISSEY (11-8) was a close sixth, but was pulled up in the last. KING KAS (11-8) was a close seventh, but was pulled up in the last. BROOKMOUNT (11-8) was a close eighth, but was pulled up in the last. LE BODISSEY (11-8) was a close ninth, but was pulled up in the last. BROOKMOUNT (11-8) was a close tenth, but was pulled up in the last. LE BODISSEY (11-8) was a close eleventh, but was pulled up in the last. BROOKMOUNT (11-8) was a close twelfth, but was pulled up in the last. LE BODISSEY (11-8) was a close thirteenth, but was pulled up in the last. BROOKMOUNT (11-8) was a close fourteenth, but was pulled up in the last. LE BODISSEY (11-8) was a close fifteenth, but was pulled up in the last. BROOKMOUNT (11-8) was a close sixteenth, but was pulled up in the last. LE BODISSEY (11-8) was a close seventeenth, but was pulled up in the last. BROOKMOUNT (11-8) was a close eighteenth, but was pulled up in the last. LE BODISSEY (11-8) was a close nineteenth, but was pulled up in the last. BROOKMOUNT (11-8) was a close twentieth, but was pulled up in the last. LE BODISSEY (11-8) was a close twenty-first, but was pulled up in the last. BROOKMOUNT (11-8) was a close twenty-second, but was pulled up in the last. LE BODISSEY (11-8) was a close twenty-third, but was pulled up in the last. BROOKMOUNT (11-8) was a close twenty-fourth, but was pulled up in the last. LE BODISSEY (11-8) was a close twenty-fifth, but was pulled up in the last. BROOKMOUNT (11-8) was a close twenty-sixth, but was pulled up in the last. 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CRICKET

England plan to give Australia more of same in second Test

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Perth

After yesterday morning's practice England announced that they would be playing the same team in the second Test match starting here today as won them the first Test in Brisbane. "Leave well alone" was the thinking, and with Embury back in action only the wicketkeeping place promised much debate.

Getting will bat at number three again and DeFreitas may move up the order, from eight to seven. When Colin Cowdrey, as captain in the West Indies in 1967-68, took it upon himself to go in first wicket down, because no one else much liked to, he was seen at his best as Gating could be the best man for the necessary patience.

No one, the curator included, has any certainty of how the pitch will last. In appearance it is quite unlike the old ones that started black and shiny or the more recent green-tops. It is pale in colour, with a fairly even covering of dry grass. The aim has been to produce a good first day batting pitch. The forecast is for fine weather, and a fine day in Perth takes a lot of beating.

In the last two Test matches that England have played here the cricket has been marred by controversy and confrontation. In 1982-83 Alderman, the Australian bowler, had to be carried off the field on a stretcher after dislocating his right shoulder when tackling one of a group of well-lubricated spectators, carrying Union Jacks, who had come over the fence when England's first innings total passed 400.

Sharjah, United Arab Emirates (Reuters) - A cavalier 92 by the opener, Krishna Srikanth, swept India in an easy seven-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the opening match of the four-nation Champions Trophy one-day competition yesterday. India, the World Cup holders, cruised past Sri Lanka's 214 with 3.3 of their 45 overs remaining.

Sri Lanka, the Asia Cup

As bawling broke out round the ground, Greg Chappell took his side off until order was restored, a quarter of an hour's play being lost. It was 15 minutes before Alderman played another Test match, and it is questionable whether he has ever been quite as good a bowler since.

On England's previous tour, in 1979-80, Lillee hijacked the Perth Test, storming around and being allowed to use an aluminium bat, despite objections from the umpires and both captains, Greg Chappell and Brearley. By the leniency with which they treated the incident, the Australian

he, too, said he got into more of a state than in his playing days. But if Brisbane was anything to go by, temperate behaviour should not be a problem in the present series.

What, instead, is casting something of a shadow are the heavy legal costs facing the West Australian Cricket Association as a result of the Federal Court's recent decision in the case brought against them by Kim Hughes, the former Australian and West Australian captain. The court ruled that the WACA had contravened the Trade Practices Act in barring Hughes from playing club cricket in Perth because of his link with South Africa where, for the last two southern

summers, he has taken a side comprising Australian Test and state cricketers.

The Australian Cricket Board had already banned Hughes and his team from representing Australia until October 1988 and their status until October 1987. Believing the club ban to be "indefinite", which the WACA said was a false assumption, Hughes claimed that if he could never have played club cricket again it would have ruled him out of all future consideration for Test and state cricket.

The 75 per cent of Hughes's costs, which the WACA have to find is expected to come to something over £150,000, which could hold up the building of one of the new stands at the Test ground.

Frantic efforts were still being made yesterday to get the players' accommodation and the "media centre" ready for this morning.

For the moment, cricket is making the news. On Sunday, when the Pope is in town, he will be. He drew 30,000 to the Sydney Cricket Ground on Tuesday. For all the difference that the other main attraction, the America's Cup, has made to our stay so far this week, it could as well be taking place off Coombe as in the waters a few miles from here. There is a lull between races, timed to coincide with the Test.

With Australia's Nelson, of Ghana, pulling out of the Alexandra Pavilion show on December 3 because of suspected appendicitis, Errol Christie, the Coventry midweekweight, has been called in to lead weight to the evening. Christie's opponent will be Charlie Boston, of Trenton, New Jersey.

Christie fresh from his exciting victory over Sean Mannion, the world rated light-middleweight, from Boston is ready to meet anyone. Boston should be a good test for him for not long ago he knocked out Dwight Davidson, once a world ranked middleweight. Also on the bill, Green, meets Kirkland Laing, of Nottingham, for the British welterweight title vacated by Lloyd Honeyghan, the world champion.

Reeson joined Warren on the condition that the manager's percentage would go to him. Lavelle for the next three years.

Reeson has a European title bout soon and if he beats Ali he could take over Ali's No. 10 position in the World Boxing Council rankings and be boxing for the world title before long.

Tony McKenzie, of Leicester, the British light-welterweight champion, could also find himself moving up in the world if he beats Ford Jennings, of Fort Worth, Texas. Jennings, who boxed at every weight as an amateur, was beaten in a split decision by the world champion, Patrizio Oliva, of Italy, last June in Naples. Jennings's manager, Don Leemaster, said: "We would like to fight him again but not in Italy."

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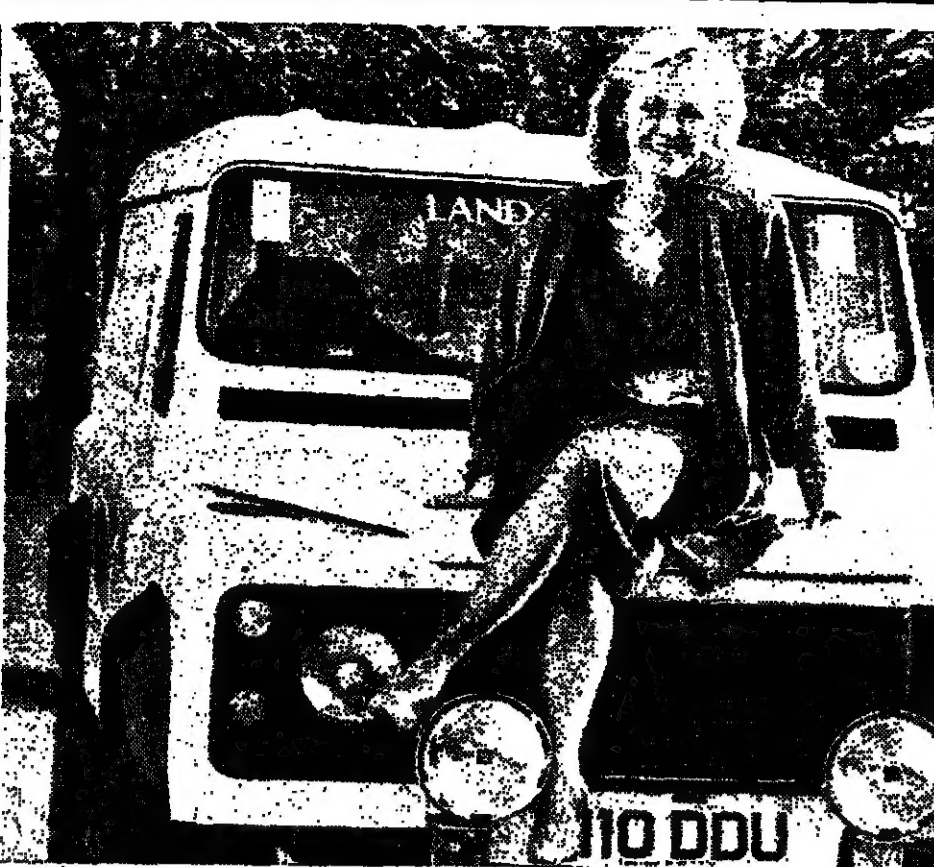
Tony McKenzie, of Leicester, the British light-welterweight champion, could also find himself moving up in the world if he beats Ford Jennings, of Fort Worth, Texas. Jennings, who boxed at every weight as an amateur, was beaten in a split decision by the world champion, Patrizio Oliva, of Italy, last June in Naples. Jennings's manager, Don Leemaster, said: "We would like to fight him again but not in Italy."

With Alexander Nelson, of Ghana, pulling out of the Alexandra Pavilion show on December 3 because of suspected appendicitis, Errol Christie, the Coventry midweekweight, has been called in to lead weight to the evening. Christie's opponent will be Charlie Boston, of Trenton, New Jersey.

Christie fresh from his exciting victory over Sean Mannion, the world rated light-middleweight, from Boston is ready to meet anyone. Boston should be a good test for him for not long ago he knocked out Dwight Davidson, once a world ranked middleweight. Also on the bill, Green, meets Kirkland Laing, of Nottingham, for the British welterweight title vacated by Lloyd Honeyghan, the world champion.

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Beauty and the beast: Kinvara Cayzer and her Land Rover, in which she aims to cross the Sahara Desert

MODERN PENTATHLON

Drug tests do not go far enough

By Michael Coleman

Two members of Britain's gold medal-winning team at the Montreal Olympic Games expressed the opinion yesterday that the recent crackdown on drugs in the sport, which has led to the suspension of 15 competitors, including the world champion, though welcome, was not severe enough.

Both thought that unscrupulous teams and athletes would still take a gamble on escaping detection. Adrian Parker, whose superb run at Montreal earned the gold, pointed out that only 36 of the 159 competitors at this year's world championships in Italy had been checked. 15 from each country, though welcome, was not severe enough.

Jonah Barrington, aged 45, arrived on court with Moses Heil for the final of the over-35 championship after a tumultuous day in which Bryan Bess and Mark Maclean finished off the last remnants of the national top eight group to reach the men's final. The women's final was a close-run thing, with Heil returning emphatically to the old firm of Opie and Le Moignan.

He felt sure that sustained pressure on the governing Union Internationale Pentathlon Moderne et Biathlon (UIPMB) would eventually lead to the suspension of total drug checking. Parker even went as far as to suggest that without a 100 per cent control, competitions should be scrapped.

The general view in the British camp, however, was that at least the UIPMB had severely punished the offenders, including the two present men's world champions and two members of the champion women's team. British competitors would not be able to get near the medals and as a consequence attract badly-needed sponsors.

Since Montreal, the men had enjoyed limited success, apart from Nightingale's Sparakidze win in Moscow in 1979, and the fourth place of Richard Phelps at the Los Angeles Olympic Games. The women too, World Cup winners from 1978 to 1980, and world champion team until 1983, had made little impact.

"Once they start testing everyone, their (Britain's) rivals' shooting scores will come down, and ours, though not so necessarily improving, will stay where they are," Nightingale said.

Sarah Parker, winner of three world team goals, pointed out that the new hope, Dominic Mahony, had been placed tenth in this year's Moscow Goodwill Games. He had been in the team at the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh last year. Above him were eight Soviet athletes, including the now-banned world champion, Anatoly Staretsin, and a Pole.

"If stricter drug checks had been enforced, Dom would surely have had a better medal chance," she observed.

Echoing the relief felt over the crackdown, James Hadden, administrator of the British Modern Pentathlon Association, said the drugs image which the sport had acquired had proved a big set-back both to attracting new young competitors and to the sport's standing in the eyes of the public.

Hadden added: "We were only able to conduct a 100 per cent test at Birmingham this summer thanks to the Sports Council."

On Wednesday Christ's entertained Millfield and gained a 7-7 draw. The powerful Christ's pack were challenged by lively Millfield backs. Christ led 7-3 at half-time through a try by their flanker, Joe Copley, and a penalty by Lloyd-Jones to a penalty by Mike Bennett but a late try by Bennett earned Millfield the draw.

Sherborne, after defeating Millfield 13-8, managed an even more impressive win when they entertained Radley. Sherborne's talented right wing, Crawford Henderson, scored three tries in their 21-8 victory. Radley's points coming from two tries that were the result of fierce forward pressure.

Uppingham, after inconsistent early season form, have really found themselves. They won their local derby 4-0 against

SQUASH RACKETS

Vintage performance keeps crowd riveted to their seats

By Colin McQuillan

Such is the charisma of the former world champion and such the curiosity of informed squash watchers about his lasting capabilities, the over-1,000 strong audience stayed firmly in their seats at Temple Meads to applaud his late-night 9-7, 9-1, 9-6, victory.

Heil, aged 36, formerly an Egyptian citizen but now a naturalised British and coaching happily at a club in Manchester, is delightfully skilful and still plays high in the order for Arrow Village in the national league.

Barrington, even in his best days, could not have been labelled delightful. Nowadays, almost contemptuous of his devotion to training, he enters his chosen arena with a certain angular stiffness which conveys all too clearly his arthritis, bursitis and the other tributes of long-term athletic success.

There is a natural sympathy in most audiences for Heil. A small, compact man with a rewarding trick of smiling at even the most outrageous for-

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ATHLETICS

Marathon runner in drugs ban

New York (Reuters) - Antoni Niemczak, of Poland, who finished second in the New York Marathon, was disqualified yesterday after failing a drug test.

Fred Lebow, the race director, said he was told to disqualify Niemczak by The Athletics Congress (TAC) after track and field officials found traces of the banned substance in his urine.

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SPORT

Meeting could change rules

By Paul Martin

The England Rugby Football Union is to propose that the world's Rugby leaders breach the strict segregation that has been in force between amateur Rugby Union and professional Rugby League since the turn of the century.

The move, expected to be given final approval at today's full meeting of the RFU Committee in London, would allow a retired Rugby League professional to join a Rugby Union club as a member—but would bar him from actually playing for, or helping to run it.

An amendment to the existing regulations stipulating that "no club shall knowingly accept or allow to continue in membership anyone who is not an amateur" was first proposed by England in a confidential letter to the International Board last year.

Dudley Wood, the RFU Secretary, confirmed that England intended to press for Rugby clubs to allow ex-professionals to become what he termed "social members", and that today's RFU meeting would be "toning and refining" English proposals for next March's IB.

Today's RFU meeting is also expected to reaffirm a proposal agreed to, with some reluctance, in recent months: that the International Board accept a free interchange of players between Rugby Union and Rugby League. "We now recognize that the ban on Rugby League amateurs was an anachronism," Wood said.

England is also aiming to reverse the 1985 IB decision to allow American grid-iron players, upon making a statutory declaration of retirement, to be readmitted to amateur Rugby Union—as the Springbok captain, Nasser Botha, has been allowed to do. Wood accepted that the idea of having ex-Rugby League professionals joining Rugby Union clubs would cause "strong disagreement from some diehards who resist any change". But he said it was a response to existing realities: "We have to face up to the facts."

There has been considerable dissension among top-class Rugby Union players—including ex-England captain Peter Wheeler—over the slow pace of any rapprochement between the two codes. However, Wood does not believe there is any significant pressure in England for ex-Rugby League professionals to be allowed to play or help run amateur Rugby.

The International Board will debate next March more radical proposals from Southern Hemisphere countries and France. Those proposals are that they would make provisions for ex-professionals to be eligible to regain full amateur status after a "cooling-off period"—an idea favoured and first volunteered by New Zealand—and at the discretion of each country's Rugby Union authorities.

Calm returns as the Hurricane blows strongly

By Sydney Friskin

Alex Higgins returned to a half-empty Guild Hall at Preston yesterday, two days after the controversial incident that has put his playing future in doubt, and was given a huge ovation by his supporters.

Higgins had appealed to them not to desert him and many turned up to give their encouragement as he arrived to play his Tennents UK championship quarter-final match against Wayne Jones. It obviously had an effect because at the interval of the 17-frame match Higgins led the Welshman, ranked 56th in the world, 6-1.

The complaint against Higgins, that he had allegedly head-butted the tournament director, Paul Hatherell, during a backstage incident on Monday night, had for the time being been forgotten; so too was the fact that the case had been sent to an independent tribunal.

If Higgins was classed as a rebel, he was not without a cause, which was simply a matter of self-assertion. He acquired it quickly despite his unavailing attempt to clean the cue ball, having been stopped by the referee, Len Gantry, whose sole right it is, under the rules, to do so.

The acclaim accorded Higgins inevitably created a crisis of confidence for Jones who, apart from receiving five points for a foul by Higgins, made no progress in the first frame after taking an early

lead. Higgins, who had fallen 16-39 behind, recovered to win it 75-44.

So Higgins settled down to smoother action. He won the second frame, made a break of 67 in the third and was happily launched. Jones had the chance of snatching the fourth frame but floundered on the crucial yellow and Higgins cleared the colours to win 55-42.

Preston results

QUARTER-FINALS: S. Davis (Eng) vs T. Drago (Wales) 9-5. Frame scores (Davis first): 40-54, 20-55, 22-77, 55-0, 51-50, 78-44, 67-49, 21-100, 112-3, 38-58, 59-70, 35-35, 52-3, 8-75, 116-0, 38-58, 65-4, 11. Foulie (Eng) vs C. Thorburn (Can) 55-35. Frame scores (Foulie first): 77-13, 74-2, 55-71, 71-38, 136-0, 68-0, 55-22, 10-125, 81-0, 71-7, 127-4.

Returning from the brief recess, Higgins went 5-0 ahead after resisting a spirited challenge from the Welshman who, as Higgins moved inexorably onward, became more inhibited. Higgins soon went 6-0 ahead despite a neat break of 47 by Jones, who pulled himself together to win the seventh frame after being helped by an in-off on the brown by Higgins. There were no big breaks in this session, the highest being 67 by Higgins.

Amid all the excitement of the Higgins match, Tony Knowles and John Parrott were involved on the adjoining table in a more competitive quarter-final and at the end of the afternoon, Parrott

led 4-3. Knowles won the first frame after a hard struggle. Parrott then began a period of brief ascendancy during which he levelled the score and went 2-1 ahead with a consuming clearance of 126. Knowles levelled at 2-2 but Parrott regained the lead with a run on the colours. A fluent break of 69 enabled Knowles to level at 3-3 but at the end of the seventh frame in which many opportunities were lost, Parrott potted a decisive blue to go 4-3 ahead.

Steve Davis, the title holder and the world's No. 1, had a close call against Tony Drago, of Malta, whom he defeated 9-8 to qualify for the semi-finals. Drago, who was 54-1 ahead in the deciding frame, missed an easy red and let Davis back into the match.

Neal Foulds earned his place in the semi-finals with a 9-2 victory over the Canadian Cliff Thorburn, whom Foulds had beaten in the BCE final earlier in the season. Foulds made two century breaks, 136 and 123, but Thorburn, who was suffering from a heavy cold, had a break of 125 with which he reduced the lead to 6-2.

"This is the best result of my career. I was pleased to beat Cliff in the BCE final but to beat him 9-2 is fantastic," Foulds said. Thorburn, though disappointed, said: "I'm going to bed for three days to forget it all."



Trouble-shooter: Higgins temporarily puts his problems behind him (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

FA gamble on Howe role

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

The international committee of the Football Association has taken a dangerous gamble on the role of Don Howe. A statement issued yesterday confirmed that he is to remain as the part-time assistant to Bobby Robson, England's manager, who had asked for him to be appointed on a full-time basis.

The decision, which has effectively cost Howe more than £20,000 a year, could prove equally damaging for Robson. He is aware that his right-hand man, who has been out of work since leaving the managerial post at Arsenal eight months ago, can no longer afford to reject lucrative offers from elsewhere.

Howe had waited patiently for the FA to make up its mind. He is known to have turned down one club offer at home, believed to be Aston Villa, and several others abroad, including a job in Saudi Arabia estimated to have been worth £100,000 a year.

Roberts wanted at Ibrox

By Hugh Taylor

Rangers last night opened negotiations for the transfer of yet another English player to Scotland, Graeme Souness, in an effort to strengthen a defence which lost a vital goal to Borussia Mönchengladbach in the home leg of the UEFA Cup-tie, approached Tottenham Hotspur for Graham Roberts, the redoubtable centre-half.

Rangers' player/manager considers more command is needed in the central defence and he feels that Roberts, who has in his day partnered the Ibrox captain, Terry Butcher, in the

England team, to be the player to fill the gap.

There is, however, little likelihood of a deal going through quickly. Spurs indicated that at the moment they want to keep Roberts, even though he has been out of favour recently, because of an injury to their Scotland international centre-half, Richard Gough, and David Platt, the manager, said that while he was sympathetic to the Rangers' approach, the needs of Spurs came first.

If, however, Roberts agrees to the terms, a deal is likely to be made shortly with their robust centre-half becoming yet another outstanding Eng-

lish player to change the trend of transfers and go north to join Glasgow's English colony of Woods, Butcher and West at Ibrox.

A fee of around £600,000 is expected, but Souness will bear as much as that because he is determined to strengthen his defence. He was badly upset at the loss of a goal against Borussia on Wednesday night. He felt that Rangers had been in command for most of the match, and should have scored more goals, but now face a formidable task in the second leg in Germany next month.

David Miller, page 34

League accused of sabotage attempt

By Clive White

David Evans, the chairman of Luton Town, claimed yesterday that the Football League deliberately tried to sabotage a meeting organized at the club's request to demonstrate to League officials the effectiveness of their controversial membership scheme.

Hours before the League's fact-finding team arrived at Kenilworth Road, Luton received a demand from the League that the club refund the £3,000 share of the Littlewoods Cup pool after their withdrawal from the competition last month.

Evans said: "I believe they thought I'd call off the meeting. It's typical of the present management committee. They are so entrenched, so vindictive."

Philip Carter, the League president, who thought that the timing was "purely coincidental", said it did not make sense to give money to a club who pulled out of a competition.

Evans continued: "I shall just write to the chairman of Littlewoods and send him the bill. Littlewoods have had a board at Luton all season and our players have visited their local store. They have had more publicity out of Luton than all the other clubs put together." The League will in fact deduct the money from that which is sent to Luton in the normal course of payments.

The fact that Carter was one of only three representatives of the management committee to turn up yesterday does not bode well for the introduction of the kind of membership scheme that the Government has in mind. The League are proposing a scheme whereby

70 per cent of supporters are members. The Prime Minister wants 100 per cent.

Carter remained unconvinced by the Luton method in which all away supporters are banned. "We are impressed with Luton's system. It is first class as far as that club is concerned. Any other club interested in the scheme can come and see it. The fact that they don't have the Luton problem in the first place."

Evans said: "It's so silly. I can't understand why the League are not prepared to have full membership. They seem to be worried about the 40,000 travelling fans but in doing so they are sacrificing the vast majority of supporters."

He said that he did not believe in home fans only but that the problem has to be attacked from some starting point. "When the climate is right we will allow away supporters to stand side by side with our own. The problems are not inside grounds but in the towns, stations and motorway service areas. Why should the mindless few torment the other 50 million. I believe you would eliminate that trouble with the right membership scheme."

Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, was one member of the management committee who did not turn up. It was believed he did not want to be seen giving publicity to the Luton idea. The only other two members apart from Carter to attend were David Dein, the Arsenal vice-chairman, and Jack Dunnett, the Notts County chairman. Carter said that he hoped to make a return visit to Luton later.

With the stalwart McLaughlin stabilizing their defence, Celtic, who are undefeated in their last 15 League games, would become even hotter favourites for the championship. They are presently 7-4 on. Celtic supporters would certainly breathe more easily if the defence were strengthened.

Hibernian eyes are also focused on England. The directors have been sifting through more than 50 applications for the manager's post vacated by John Blackley. But the chairman, Ken Waugh, admitted yesterday: "None of them really excites us."

As the list includes Joe Jordan, the craggy centre-forward who became the favourite of the Scottish international supporters only a few years ago, it appears that Hibernian are again looking to Andy Gray, of Aston Villa, to solve their problem.

Back to the old Belfry spirit

By Mitchell Plants

Tony Jacklin has won his first minor skirmish in his attempt to lead Europe to another Ryder Cup win next year.

Jacklin, who will be the captain for a third successive time, said: "I will be selecting the team just like last time when we won at The Belfry. That means nine players will automatically win their places and that I will select the other three. There had been some talk about going straight down the money list and all 12 automatically qualifying but, happily, I have the same arrangement as last time."

Jacklin confirmed that arrangement during a luncheon at the Epsom Racecourse at which the Epsom Prose Group unveiled their travel programme to support Europe's campaign at the Midfield Village Golf Club, Dublin, Ohio from September 25 to 27 next year.

Members of the public who wish to support the team have been offered a variety of trips ranging from a "tour patron" Concorde package with the team at £4,950 to a "matchdays" tour covering four nights at £775.

An all-out effort to win in US

Jacklin said: "We need the kind of support we had at The Belfry which is why we are here today. Jack Nicklaus, who is the United States captain again, said to me during a recent conversation that he doesn't care who wins."

"I told him that I didn't believe that. I told him that, in spite of the fact that the match will be held in a sporting manner again, we will be going out there to win. We can get all the support we can get. 'I'm not sure that we can win, although I am not saying that we will. It is a particularly difficult task to try and win in America. But we are no longer frightened by the task of standing on the first tee against the Americans. We now have the world-class players that we always needed in depth.'"

"But it could be quite a different team. A few of the players who were in the 1985 team have not been enjoying such a good time of late. And it would seem to me that Jose Maria Olazabal will walk into the team."

"On top of that there are several golfers capable of making their first appearances in the Ryder Cup. Roman Rafferty and Robert Lee are two of the British players that I have in mind and then there are the Swedes, such as Ove Selberg and Anders Forsbrand. But whatever the final 12 that we take to America we will still need all the support we can get."

Jacklin was quick to emphasize that "our big guns like Seve (Ballesteros) and Bernhard (Langer) will still be blasting". But he is also well aware of the revolution going on overseas in European golf with the emergence of more Continental players capable of achieving the highest honours.

New faces could appear in team

Indeed it was following the success at The Belfry that Jacklin predicted that Sweden would probably follow Spain and West Germany in supplying a player for the next team. The Continentals were first given the opportunity to compete in the 1979 match.

That prophecy has been given encouraging support by the performances of Selberg, who won the Epsom Grand Prix of Europe during the 1986 campaign, and by Forsbrand, who finished eighth in the Order of Merit with £84,706.

Yet it is the astonishing progress of Olazabal, who won twice during his first season as a professional and finished runner-up in the Order of Merit with £136,775, which highlights the possibility of there being several newcomers to the team next year.

Jacklin pinpointed Rafferty and Lee as the emerging forces on the British scene but David Forster, twice a winner in 1986, and Gordon Brand, junior will also be seeking their Ryder Cup baptism and Mark Mondland, who won the Car Care Plan International, will be eager to make further progress.

Moreover Philip Parkin, Mark Roe and Roger Chapman are also fringe candidates rich in ability even if they are still awaiting their first important successes on the PGA European tour. Parkin and Chapman have shown during the last two seasons that they possess the potential to develop into international performers while Roe made significant progress during 1986 by finishing 39th in the Order of Merit.

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Club upset by referee

Newport Rugby Club may lodge a formal complaint with the RFU over what they see as "smear" remarks attributed to the top referee, Roger Quinnton, after their match with London Welsh on Saturday. Quinnton was quoted in a national newspaper as saying, "Whenever I am in charge of Welsh clubs, I have to whip them like animals."

Quinnton later claimed the remarks attributed to him were "ghastly misquotations".

Flu at Reading

Reading have been hit by a flu virus and may appeal to the Football League for a postponement of their home game against Huddersfield tomorrow. Seven players are ill.

On target

Douchambe (AFP) - Lyudmila Arzhankova, of the Soviet Union, broke the women's archery world record for 144 arrows over the four distances of 30 metres, 50 metres, 60 metres and 70 metres when she scored 1,331 points here yesterday. This was six points better than the previous record.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Mansell's loss

Brands Hatch circuit officials are working overtime to prepare a second car for Nigel Mansell, who competes in a charity race in aid of the Save the Children Fund during the Tribute to Williams Day on Sunday. The Escort XR3i that Mansell was due to race this weekend has been stolen from the Kent circuit. Mansell will be competing against key people who sponsor the Williams team, as well as Patrick Head, the Canon Williams Honda's designer.

Just the ticket

The British Olympic Association has named Sportsworld Travel as the official ticket and tour agency for the summer and winter Games in 1988. The London company will act as sole agents for marketing tickets and tours to Seoul and Calgary for British spectators. Dick Palmer, the general secretary of the BOA, said: "The choice was made after careful scrutiny of a number of travel firms."

Australia win

Massy (Reuters) - Australia beat a French selection 36-4 in the first match of their Rugby League tour of France here on Wednesday.

Kapil Dev: stays as captain

Delhi (Reuters) - Kapil Dev has been retained as India's cricket captain for the Sri Lankan tour of India starting next month. Sri Lanka are due to arrive on December 6 for a tour which includes three Test matches and five one-day internationals.

Opie wins

Lisa Opie beat Martine Le Moignan 9-7, 9-1, 9-0 in the women's final of the InterCity national squash rackets championships at Bristol last night. Happy crowds, page 33